■ SPORTS / A28

Marvin Reyes: At 12, youngest Filipino to score perfect game

■ WORLD / A13

German Chancellor Schroeder won't give up post without a fight

■ BUSINESS / B1

PLDT buying Dream Satellite TV from Tonyboy Cojuangco for $22M

■ NEWS / A2

PCGG plans to put Marcos jewels in museum if auction falls through

Anti-GMA forces rally today; parts of Ayala, Paseo closed

By Tarra V. Quismundo, DJ Yap and Luige A. del Puerto

TWO MAIN ARTERIES OF MAKATI'S business district will be off limits to vehicles for the better part of today, the 33rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, as the broad opposition once again holds a protest rally against

ANTI-GMA/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't docs examine ailing Jalosjos; pardon seen

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

CONVICTED CHILD RAPIST AND FORMER Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, a supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo's, may leave prison before Christmas, a source in the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) said yesterday.

PALACE/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 ★★ 64 pages / 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 285 P18

website: www.inq7.net

US: RP worse off under Noli

Remember Sept. 21, 1972

1081 Proclamation 1081 is signed by President Ferdinand Marcos on Sept. 21, 1972, placing the entire country under martial law.

1935 Constitution provision stating the President can impose martial rule in the country or any part of it when public safety requires it is invoked by Marcos.

The trigger is the reported ambush of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile by communists who riddled his car with bullets.

(On the first day of the People Power revolt on Feb. 22, 1986, Enrile admitted the ambush was staged to justify the imposition of martial law.)

49 persons from the Greater Manila Area are immediately arrested on Sept. 22, 1972 by the AFP. Among the more prominent are Senators Benigno Aquino, Jose Diokno, Ramon Mitra, Sergio Osmeña Jr., businessman Eugenio Lopez Jr., activist teacher Etta Rosales, human rights lawyer Haydee Yorac and journalist Amando Doronila.

The AFP closes all media offices and arrests persons suspected of being involved in alleged rebellious activities.

On Sept. 23, 1972, Press Secretary Francis-

REMEMBER/ A4

33 years later, militants are still marching

By Volt Contreras

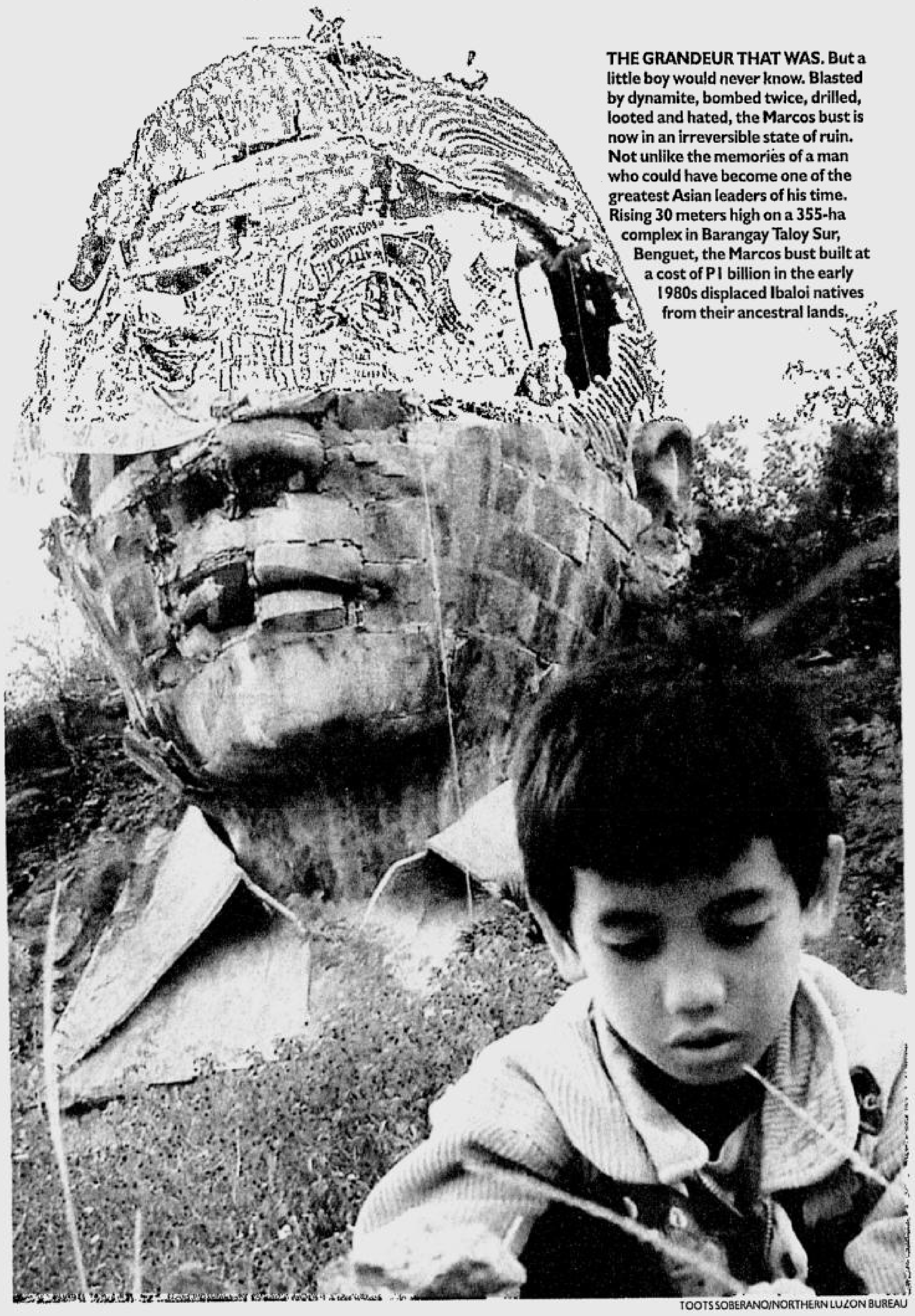
A DAILY PLANNER, A USUAL CORPORATE giveaway during Christmas, is a most useful gift for a man like Willy Marbella.

He's no jet-setting business executive—but a militant peasant organizer from Bicol who has long realized the need to keep a record of the death threats he gets, allegedly from the police and military, in the course of his work.

That's why when he joins street marches today marking the 33rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, he's not only invoking the memories of a dark regime.

He's there giving flesh to that certain

33 YEARS/ A4



THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS. But a little boy would never know. Blasted by dynamite, bombed twice, drilled, looted and hated, the Marcos bust is now in an irreversible state of ruin. Not unlike the memories of a man who could have become one of the greatest Asian leaders of his time. Rising 30 meters high on a 355-ha complex in Barangay Taloy Sur, Benguet, the Marcos bust built at a cost of P1 billion in the early 1980s displaced Ibaloi natives from their ancestral lands.

TOOTS SOBERANO/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Says Veep not savvy on foreign, local issues

By Norman Bordadora

SPECIAL REPORT

THE US GOVERNMENT thinks Vice President Noli de Castro will do further damage to the Philippines' political and economic situation if he succeeds President Macapagal-Arroyo in the event that she is forced to leave Malacañang.

In a US Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence assessment dated July 16 and prepared by then US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, US agents in the country portrayed De Castro as inept in both domestic and foreign policy issues.

"If this is what De Castro can offer on domestic and foreign policy issues, then the opposition should rethink [its] position as protracted uncertainties will deepen and increasingly harm the current political and economic situation if De Castro succeeds [Ms Arroyo] as the constitutional president," read a "State Department" comment on an excerpt of the US agents' interview with the Vice President.

The comment was made immediately after De Castro's state-

US: RP WORSE/ A20

Noli: I don't remember his face

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday denied a US report quoting him as saying there was circumstantial evidence linking President Macapagal-Arroyo to fraud during the May 2004 presidential election.

"I have never talked extensively, whether about politics or otherwise, with former US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli. I don't even remember his face," De Castro told the INQUIRER, adding:

"And why would I tell him

NOLI/ A20

Yes, 'Big Brother' is watching RP events 'very closely'

By Nikko Dizon

AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT YESTERDAY said the US Embassy was closely monitoring events in the Philippines, including today's planned massive rally by groups calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the diplomat, US Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop, again maintained the embassy's silence on newspaper stories running for the past several days dealing with the embassy's assessment of the political turmoil in the country.

Asked how he viewed today's scheduled opposition rally in the Makati business district, Lussenhop told reporters: "The embassy is looking, watching these events very closely."

"[We are] pleased that we see the constitutional process has been followed so far."

Lussenhop expressed confidence the United States "can continue to work with the government of the Philippines" on various issues.

He said the US Embassy had been reading with "interest" the news stories on the analyses by former US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and political officer Andrew MacLearn of the political conflict in the Philippines.

But he again declined comment, saying: "It's a longstanding practice in this embassy, of all US embassies, that we don't comment, we don't confirm nor deny stories in the newspapers that [are] alleged to be based on classified materials from the US government."

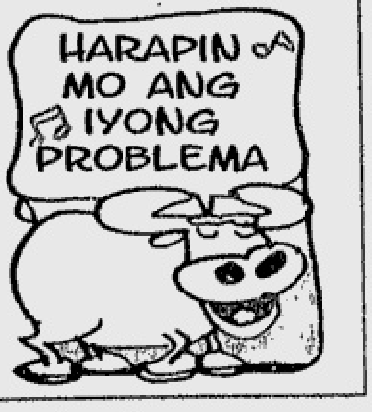
Asked if the Mussomeli analysis as published in the newspapers was "authentic," Lussenhop said: "I can't confirm or deny anything about it."

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said that while diplomats normally submitted reports on the economic or political situation in their host countries, it was their

YES/ A21

Miriam tells Ping, et al.: Go to US and face the music

By Juliet Labog-Javellana


HARAPIN MO ANG IYONG PROBLEMA

GRAB THE BULL BY THE horns is Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's advice to her Senate colleagues who have admitted getting e-mail messages from a former police official facing espionage charges in the United States.

Speaking on Monday on

MIRIAM/ A21

Analyst says Palace feeling US pressure

By TJ Burgonio, Christian V. Esguerra and Luige A. del Puerto

MALACAÑANG IS PUTTING UP A brave front by mocking coup threats, but in reality it is panicking, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles said yesterday.

"It's like a boy whistling in the dark ... This is a purely hyper casual reaction indicative of cold panic," Robles, head of a risk consultancy firm, said in a phone interview.

Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, on his part, said that he could not rule out a military attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's a real possibility. We can't just count it out," said Iñiguez, the outspoken head of the Episcopal Commission on Public Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, in an SMS message to the INQUIRER from Berlin, where he is attending an international police conference, dismissed rumors of a coup attempt in Manila.

Robles, president of the security risk management consultancy RCR, warned that the series of US Embassy's reports on military coups could be the start of long drawn-out US pressure for the credible resolution of the vote fraud charge against Ms Arroyo.

"They're (Malacañang) becoming afraid of the US. They might have dealt with the local people, and got away with it, but what about the US? Can they also get away with it?" Robles said.

"We will expect more revelations and actions from the US side that will continue to pressure [the administration] to set things right," said Robles, a member of the Feliciano Commission that looked into the causes of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

The US Embassy reports, copies of which had been furnished the INQUIRER, were a "high-

ANALYST / A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience rains, gusty winds, and moderate to rough seas. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will have rains, while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/21/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

No stopping Cha-cha – JDV

By Michael Lim Ubac

WASHINGTON, D.C.—It looks like the Charter change (Cha-cha) express will not be stopped, even if President Macapagal-Arroyo herself will be a casualty.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said here Monday that debates on amendments to the 1987 Constitution, although they would cut by three years Ms Arroyo's six-year term, would preoccupy the House of Representatives for the rest of the year.

De Venecia said at a forum organized by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank identified with the Republicans, that the present presidential form of government in the Philippines was a "prescription for a crisis in a society where the middle-class is not strong."

Joe de V's admission

He also admitted for the first time that it was he who convinced Ms Arroyo to run for president last year after she had said in 2002 that she would not be seeking election.

"We floated four names but not one (fared well) in the presidential surveys," De Venecia said.

Ms Arroyo's presidential run and victory last year led to allegations of fraud that in turn led to an attempt to impeach her.

But this time, De Venecia said, "It is not a change of men and women in leadership that we seek, but the time has perhaps come to change the political system."

He said that beginning next month, the House will tackle the shift from the presidential to a unicameral parliamentary-federal system, a move that would abolish the House and the Senate and create a one-chamber parliament.

De Venecia said the amendments would be proposed in a constituent assembly composed of the members of Congress rather than a constitutional convention, which would cost P8 billion and "exacerbate existing tensions in a divisive election of delegates."

As to whether or not the Charter amendments would shorten President Arroyo's term, De Venecia said: "This has to be the subject of consultations with all political parties. What the President has said is 'any adjustment in my term must be dictated by the new Constitution and not by the mob in the streets.'"

Diminished powers

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo could either serve up to 2007 but with diminished powers or step down as soon as the new parliament was in place.

Under the timetable, the House would begin plenary debates in early October and vote on the Cha-cha resolution in November, after which Congress would sit as a constituent assembly.

A two-thirds vote of Congress is needed to approve each of the proposed amendments, De Venecia said.

"We hope to complete the process by December or January and schedule the national plebiscite in March or April for approval or disapproval of the amendments by the Filipino people," he said.

De Venecia said the current three-year election cycle under the presidential system had bred a perpetual political campaign that "involves incredible amounts of money which forces candidates to pay back political debts and start preparing for the next elections."

He has also advocated an "open-door policy" that would allow foreigners to own up to 100 percent of any property or business in the country.

"We are going to have an open-door policy for foreign investments. Those restrictions are outmoded," he said.

Gonzales faces tough grilling on lobby deal

By TJ Burgonio

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER NORBERTO Gonzales should expect some tough grilling when he appears today before the Senate blue ribbon committee to explain his role in a government deal with an American lobby firm.

"He better prepare well for his defense because on the basis of the documents... he would have a very difficult position explaining what he did," Sen. Joker Arroyo, blue ribbon committee chair, told reporters.

The blue ribbon committee opens its inquiry at 1 p.m. into whether or not Gonzales, whose main role is to provide technical expertise to the National Security Council, had the power to enter into a contract in behalf of the government.

Gonzales has furnished the committee a copy of the agreement that he signed on July 25 with Venable LLP, an American lobby firm. He has also confirmed his attendance at today's hearing.

His own deal

After browsing through a copy of the agreement, Arroyo said it appeared that Gonzales made the deal on his own – the main provision of which was to secure grants for Charter change in the Philippines.

"We're only thinking about the role of Secretary Gonzales, his fitness to remain as national security adviser because the more we see the documents, the more there is a prima facie case that he's a security risk," Arroyo said.

He said he would merely ask Gonzales at the hearing where he got the authority to seal the Venable contract and if he thought receiving foreign funds to make changes in the Philippine Constitution was inimical to national security.

At the same time, the senator said he did not see any reason to summon Venable officials to the hearing.

GONZALES

Reacting to militant group Pamalakaya's call to have Venable lawyers James T. Pitts and James George Jatras summoned to the hearing, Arroyo said: "They are not at fault here. They just signed the contract and they're a law office. They wanted to make money so they signed it. Any fault is particularly directed at Secretary Gonzales."

Serving no purpose

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the chamber could summon the executives if they were "within Philippine jurisdiction."

"But if not, any subpoena to them will not serve any purpose because they're beyond the jurisdiction of the country."

Drilon also doubted the government could get a refund of its $225,000 down payment for Venable's services.

"The terms of agreement state that the contract can be terminated upon 90-day notice, therefore, I don't think that we can claim the refund. I think the refund will be resisted by the Venable law firm," he said.

The $75,000 a month one-year contract was signed by Gonzales on July 25. On Sept 18, Gonzales said the President had rescinded the contract due to the controversy.

But Ms Arroyo said in an interview over ANC News on Monday that she had merely ordered its review and it had not totally been dropped.

Defense grants

Malacañang officials insisted also on Monday that the contract was primarily to obtain defense grants and not funds for Charter change initiatives, but the supposed main beneficiary of the deal was clueless about it.

"We have no idea about the contract. I do not know the contract actually," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

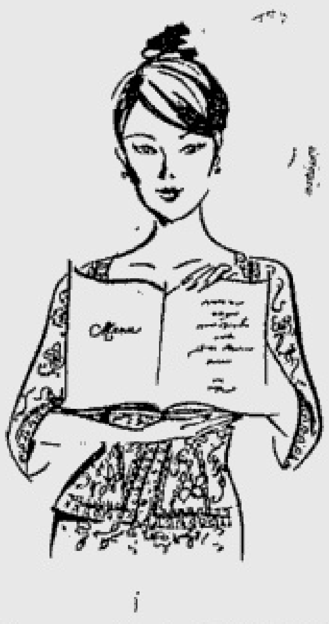
Senga indicated he did not know anything beyond what had been reported in the media.

Administration lawmakers, meanwhile, yesterday dismissed as "another black propaganda and deception" opposition claims that Malacañang had approved nine other contracts with foreign lobby firms.

In a joint statement, Representatives Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique) and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) challenged opposition lawmakers to prove their allegations "otherwise they should stop media grandstanding and politicking."

The two were reacting to San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora's claim that the government had entered into at least nine "anomalous" PR contracts with foreign lobby firms, similar to the Venable deal.

Cagas said the latest allegations against the administration only showed the opposition was determined to oust President Arroyo through "a sustained smear campaign." *With Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5543, Series of 2005.

Party funds for VP?

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro planning to throw a lot of parties next year?

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran raised this question yesterday as he scored the nearly 100-percent increase in the proposed budget of the Office of the Vice President, which he tagged as "happy-happy funds."

Beltran said the proposed 2006 General Appropriations Act raised the OVP budget for "ceremonial functions and technical services" from P47.5 million this year to P93.29 million, while allocations for urban poor housing and related needs were slashed.

The Vice President also heads the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

The P93.29 million is 71.33 percent of the OVP's total proposed budget of P130.78 million, which itself was raised by 54.98 percent, Beltran said.

He said De Castro was also given a "whopping" P6 million for "confidential and intelligence expenses."

"What is Vice President Noli de Castro intending to do for the next year – throw a lot of parties and society functions?" Beltran said in a statement.

Museum an option for Imelda jewels

By Alcuin Papa and Tina G. Santos

BLING IT ON.

The public may soon view the famed Marcos jewelry in a museum, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) told a media forum yesterday.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said the agency was studying all possible options on what to do with the jewelry collections once owned by former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"We are not discounting [making available the Marcos jewelry for public viewing in a museum]. We are looking into that," Abcede said.

He explained that the PCGG is targeting the November auction peak season in Geneva, Switzerland. However, the cases filed by Imelda to stop the auction, plus the lengthy discussions between the local officials and representatives of international auction houses Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams had made meeting the November deadline a bleak possibility.

"There are a lot of procedural things—like agreeing on the terms of reference that have to be threshed out first. Then there are the cases filed by Mrs. Marcos. Maybe we can make it by May in New York," Abcede said.

The auction world has two peak seasons: November in Geneva and Switzerland, and May in New York City.

Auction in Manila?

Another possibility, Abcede said, was for the government itself to hold the auction.

"We are open to the suggestion that the jewelry be auctioned abroad or here. This will attract a lot of tourists. The country could save on fees collected by auction houses that earn a percentage from the buyer and earn another percentage from the seller. All of these [options] are being taken into account," he said.

Abcede noted that even if the collections were exhibited in a museum and the viewers charged a fee, it would still take a long time to recover the money spent on the jewelry which the PCGG asserted were ill-gotten.

Abcede said he was committed to pushing through with the auction, whether in November or May, unless a court would order him to stop the sale. He added that he was confident the courts would not stop the PCGG from selling the jewelry.

The $10-M collections

Representatives of Christie's had already inspected the Marcos jewelry, composed of the Malacañang, Honolulu and Roumeliotes collections.

The Malacañang collection, which had some 300 items, was left behind by the Marcoses in the Palace when they fled in 1986. In 1996, a court issued a temporary restraining order on the jewels, but this has since lapsed.

The Honolulu collection, composed of around 400 items, was seized by US Customs officials when the Marcoses landed in Honolulu after they fled. In 1991, Imelda signed a compromise agreement and turned over the jewelry back to the Philippine government in exchange for the dropping of anti-racketeering charges filed against her in the US.

The Roumeliotes collection, said to be the most expensive of the three, was confiscated by local airport officials in 1986 from Greek Demetriou Roumeliotes as he tried to flee the country. The cases related to this collection went all the way to the Supreme Court but were decided in favor of the government.

All three collections are expected to fetch $10 million in the auction market.

DAR tells field officers to defy lower courts in acquiring lands

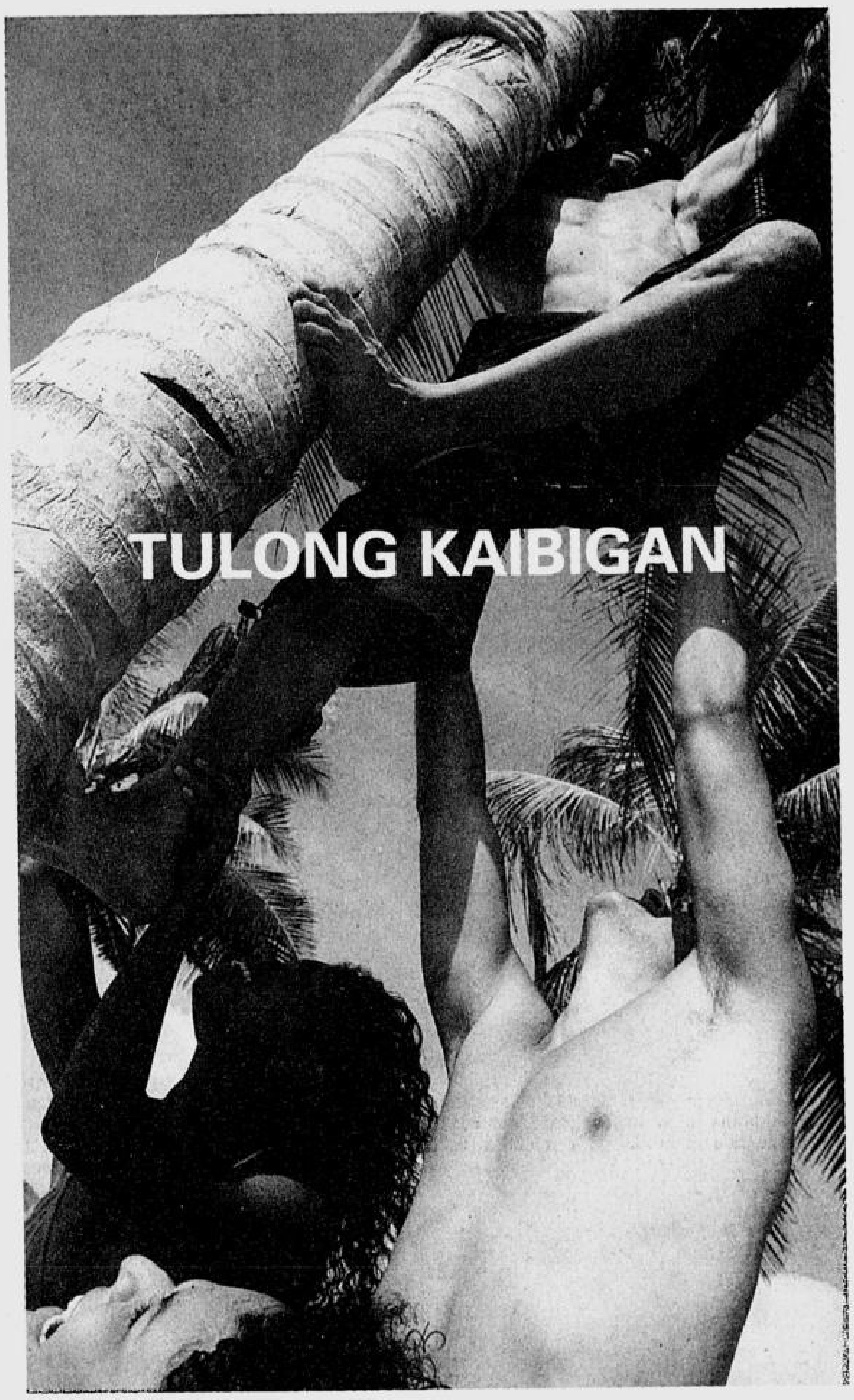
INVOKING A SUPREME COURT decision early this year, the Department of Agrarian Reform has ordered its field officers to aggressively enforce land acquisition and distribution despite restraining orders issued by regional trial courts.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman assured municipal and provincial agrarian reform officers that they had the legal right to proceed with land acquisition because all injunctions, temporary restraining orders and other legal instruments from lower courts were invalid.

Pangandaman reiterated the Supreme Court ruling in March on the Cuenca case saying regional trial courts had no jurisdiction over agrarian reform cases.

"CARP implementors continue to be apprehensive in fully implementing the acquisition and distribution process for fear of retaliatory or contempt actions by the landowners regular court judges who issue TROs and/or injunctions," Pangandaman said in a memo dated Sept. 16.

"The issue has now been laid to rest with the issuance of the Supreme Court ruling in DAR vs. Cuenca, which has already become final and executory," he said. *Blanche S. Rivera*



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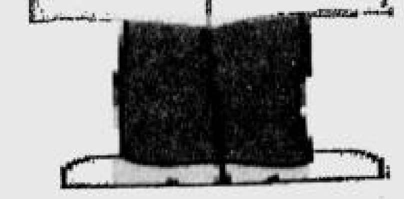
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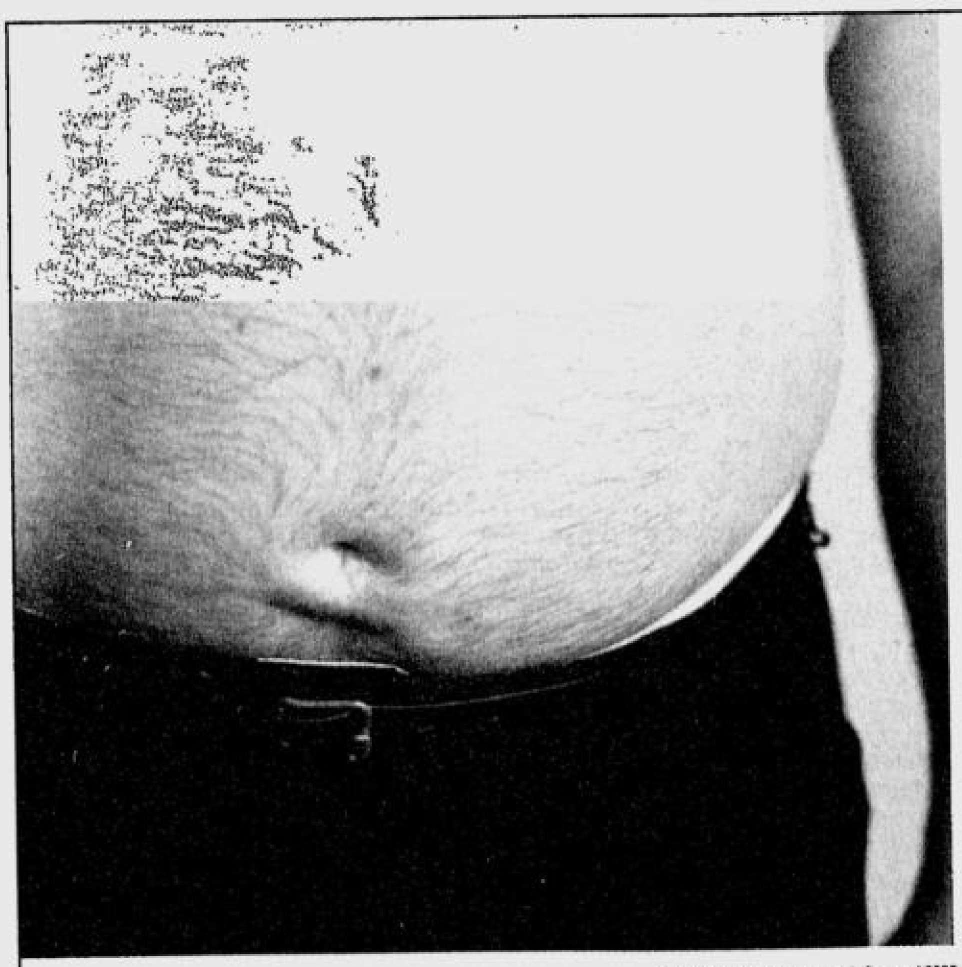
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A SERIES OF PRE-MARTIAL LAW demonstrations mounted mostly by students was cited by Marcos as rising incidents of anarchy and rebellion to justify the proclamation of martial law to save democracy. PDI PHOTO

THE FACES OF MARTIAL LAW in the early days of fear and loathing: President Ferdinand Marcos and Press Secretary Francisco Tatad, then 29 years old, a journalist who was "pirated" by the Palace from the Manila Bulletin. PDI LIBRARY

33 years later, militants are still marching

From page A1

state of mind Proclamation No. 1081 had induced in full-time activists like him.

"I won't consider this paranoia, otherwise it won't let me accomplish anything. I just want to leave pieces of circumstantial evidence for the police, just in case," says the 48-year-old Marbella, now working for the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The KMP is one of the groups tagged by the military as a front organization for communist insurgents.

When the INQUIRER met with him in the KMP office at UP Village, Quezon City, yesterday, he still had his 2004 planner among his documents—legal papers, Xeroxed copies of the controversial coco levy certificates, news clippings.

Menacing messages

For the dark blue mini-diary contains certain entries which, he said, are meant to give investigators clues as to who would be doing him in someday. He was using that planner when he was still based in his hometown of Daraga, Albay.

The entry for Nov. 11, for example, consisted of the three menacing text messages in Bicolano from an unknown sender.

The messages came a day after his friend Joel Baclao, a Bicol chapter coordinator of Promotion of Church People's Response, was shot dead in his house by unidentified gunmen.

Three days before the murder, on Nov. 8, Marbella himself overheard two men in civilian clothes—both with jackets strapped around their waists—asking his neighbors whether they had seen "our kumpareng Willy." He hardly knew the men.

The first message read: "Kumander Willy, you tough guy! Soon enough you, too, will eat gunpowder as your friend just did."

The second text that same day: "Don't be too cocky. Start counting your candles. Hahaha!"

The third threat: "You're a nut case, Kumander Willy. Who do you think you are? You're a bagman for the NPA (New People's Army). About time your head got blown off."

All these warnings came from a mobile phone number 0916-8896534.

Now residing with his wife in a Manila squatters area, Marbella said he earned the monicker "Kumander Willie" in his hometown—thanks to a "branding" campaign by the military against suspected supporters of the communist New People's Army.

He said this involved the distribution of "leaflets" regarding his alleged NPA connections.

Marbella said he had never been formally charged with any illegal activity.

The man called "Kumander Willy," he said, is a high school graduate, a father of six, a consistently elected kagawad (councilor) of his Barangay Anislag from '86 to '94, and a long-serving officer of the local Parent Teachers Association. In 1998, he was even voted president of the Daraga South District PTA.

Political prisoners fast

Far from being wary of the authorities, Marbella said he had in fact been reporting the death threats jotted down in his daily planner, word for word, to the Albay police—again to leave public records of his "harassment."

For political prisoners across the country, today will be a day of fasting in protest over what they claimed is a continuing regime of human rights abuses since Marcos declared martial law 33 years ago.

Twenty-two political prisoners in the New Bilibid Prisons, as well as their peers in 58 other detention centers nationwide, will fast for "freedom, truth and justice," according to Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

It is their gesture of dissent against political repression, corruption and poverty, which they said continues to plague Filipinos 19 years after Marcos' government was overthrown.

As of Sept. 16, the cases of some 265 political prisoners/detainees have been documented all over the country, according to the task force. Most of them have been charged with criminal offenses. *With reports from DJ Yap, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. of PDI Visayas Bureau and Delfin T. Mallari Jr. of PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Remember Sept. 21, 1972

From page A1

co Tatad announces the imposition of martial law and reads the Marcos proclamation in a nationwide televised broadcast.

12-4 a.m. curfew is now in place. Marcos abolishes Congress, moves to consolidate control over the media, Manila Electric Co., Philippine Airlines, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and other major communication and utility firms. Marcos also bans rallies.

22,287 individuals arrested from February, 1974 to February, 1986 according to Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

706 persons disappear during the same period, according to TFDP figures.

880 massacred

154 tortured.

2,491 summarily executed.

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research. Sources: Filemon Rodriguez's "The Marcos Regime: Rape of the Nation"; Task Force Detainees of the Philippines; Primitivo Mijares' "The Conjugal Dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos"

Palace doctors examine ailing Jalosjos; pardon seen

From page A1

Doctors sent by Malacañang came over to the NBP last week to perform "confirmatory" examinations on 52 sickly inmates aged 70 and above, including Jalosjos, 64, who were on the list of prisoners being considered for executive clemency.

The source said some of Jalosjos' "personal belongings" were removed from his cell two weeks ago. "*Hinakot na yung malaking TV niya at mga damit* (His big TV and clothes had been carted off)."

Jalosjos, backed by his money, was instrumental in Ms Arroyo's landslide victory in his province in the 2004 presidential election, the source told the INQUIRER.

"The President won because of his influence in the area," he said, adding that although Jalosjos was in prison, he was still able to mobilize his followers in his province.

Advice

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said it was "not true" that Jalosjos, who has been in prison for almost nine years, had been granted a presidential pardon.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had not received a report that Jalosjos had obtained a pardon from the President. But Gonzalez said that two weeks ago he was asked by the Bureau of Corrections to give advice on whether Jalosjos could be released from jail because he was sick.

The former congressman is said to be suffering from a heart ailment.

Gonzalez said the law requires that Jalosjos undergo a medical examination from three doctors so that his actual medical condition could be determined. The medical examination should be done by a doctor from the Bureau of Corrections, another from Malacañang and a doctor from the Department of Health, he said.

Should the three doctors find that Jalosjos' condition will require his release, this does not automatically mean he will be freed. "It's still the prerogative of the President (to make the decision)," the justice secretary said.

Humanitarian grounds

Jalosjos, through his mother, had appealed to Ms Arroyo for executive clemency on humanitarian grounds.

Jalosjos, who was convicted twice for raping an 11-year-old girl and for committing several acts of lasciviousness against her in 1996, was reportedly brought to Makati Medical Center several times due to his heart condition.

Another source said other prisoners deserved clemency more than Jalosjos.

The source said Jalosjos did not hint at leaving prison, adding that the former congressman even brought more plants to his garden there. Plants abound in Jalosjos' 25-sq-meter cell. He has grown pomelo, guava and mango trees outside his cell.

Jalosjos has his own pedicab that ferries him around the NBP compound.

He enjoys other benefits not accorded most of his fellow convicts. He has a cooler for storing his food, an electric fan and a small stereo, according to the source.

Special diet

Jalosjos does not eat the food served at the NBP. An inmate cooks for him, catering to the "special diet" prescribed for his condition.

NBP chaplain Msgr. Robert Olaguer said Jalosjos was "ambulatory" but used a walking stick.

Olaguer noted that Jalosjos' tennis matches with other inmates had been limited to once or twice a week. "He usually played almost every other day," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

Asked about Jalosjos' condition, Olaguer said: "He could be seriously ill but not critical."

Olaguer said the doctors who visited the 52 inmates last week were sent by the government to verify the findings stated on their medical records. "These doctors were recommended by the Board of Pardons and Parole," he said.

Recommendatory

NBP Supt. Juanito Leopando said there were roughly 200 sick and dying prisoners who were recommended for clemency since Bureau of Corrections Director Vicente Vinarao assumed his post late last year.

"We only do the recommendation but the President gives the final approval," Leopando said.

Although the law says that convicts aged 70 and above can be pardoned by the President, Ms Arroyo can exercise her prerogative and pardon people under 70, according to Olaguer.

9 years behind bars

PDI PHOTO

HOME before Christmas? If granted executive clemency, former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos would walk out of his two life-term sentence for raping an 11-year-old girl and other acts of lasciviousness. Palace doctors visited him last week to confirm an allegedly serious heart condition as the basis for the pardon from President Arroyo.

Aug. 16, 1996. After running away from home, an 11-year-old girl tells Pasay police that her foster father, Simplicio Delantar, has been selling her to several men.

She later signs an affidavit naming Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos as one of the men who had paid her father to have sex with her.

Sept. 11, 1996. Jalosjos extends his leave of absence as congressman supposedly to undergo surgery

Sept. 18, 1996. The girl formally files a complaint against Jalosjos. She accuses him of raping her at his Ritz Towers condominium between June and July 1996

Sept. 24, 1996. During interpellation in the House of Representatives, Jalosjos denies he raped the girl and committed acts of lasciviousness. His brother Dominador surfaces and claims he spent time with the girl sometime between June and July watching television.

Dec. 16, 1996. Two counts of statutory rape and 12 counts of acts of lasciviousness are filed against Jalosjos in the Makati Regional Trial Court. Judge Roberto Diokno issues a warrant of arrest for Jalosjos. The congressman goes into hiding soon after.

Jan. 17, 1997. After weeks of futile search, Jalosjos is arrested in Bagac, Bataan, by combined forces of the Presidential Security Group and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Jan. 29, 1997. Jalosjos pleads not guilty to all accusations. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, then a senator, visits Jalosjos in jail. She claims her visit was an act of Christian compassion

June 14, 1997. Jailed Jalosjos leaves his cell for a medical checkup at the Makati Medical Center.

July 24, 1997. Jalosjos donates a new chapel to the Makati City Jail

Dec. 12, 1997. Jalosjos is sentenced to two life terms for statutory rape and an additional 8 to 15 years for each of the six counts of acts of lasciviousness.

Dec. 22, 1997. Jalosjos receives temporary liberty after being allowed to register in his home province for the following year's elections. He announces plans to run for Congress again.

March 12, 1998. The convicted congressman is transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

May 1998. Jalosjos wins as congressman of Zamboanga del Norte.

June 13, 1998. The Commission on Elections rules Jalosjos cannot attend sessions in Congress but the Department of Justice allows him to take his oath as congressman.

July 7, 1998. He takes his oath of office in jail.

Nov. 12, 1998. Prison officials tear down the 400-sq.m. rest house built by Jalosjos for, according to him, the other inmates.

Nov. 24, 1998. Jalosjos holds his 58th birthday bash in prison, with two truckloads of catered food, two roasted calves, four roasted pigs and fruits. More than 5,000 guests are in attendance.

Feb. 16, 1999. Jalosjos is moved to an ordinary cell following reports that he occupies four cells (an airconditioned room, a kitchen, living room and a room for two inmates working as his help). He also has a hamburger store, two rest houses, a billiards nook and a bathroom with water tank, heater and bathtub.

July 28, 1999. 119 of 220 members of the House of Representatives sign House Resolution No. 1012 calling on the Supreme Court to allow Jalosjos to attend House sessions and committee hearings. Then President Joseph Estrada supports the call but the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines does not.

Feb. 3, 2000. Supreme Court says Jalosjos cannot leave prison to attend sessions in Congress.

Nov 19, 2001. The high tribunal upholds the ruling of the lower court on Jalosjos.

Jan. 22, 2002. SC upholds with finality the conviction of Jalosjos. His name is later dropped from the list of members of the House.

Feb. 28, 2003. Jalosjos is rushed to the Makati Medical Center after suffering an acute stroke.

May 2004. President Macapagal-Arroyo wins by a margin of almost 100,000 votes over Fernando Poe Jr. in Zamboanga del Norte.

October 2004. Jalosjos is again taken to Makati Medical Center after suffering a heart attack.

Dec. 11, 2004. After complaining of chest pains, Jalosjos is brought to the hospital.

Weeks later his mother Angelina makes an emotional appeal to Ms Arroyo to grant her son a presidential pardon.

Dec. 30, 2004. Malacañang says it will seek the Department of Justice's opinion on whether the convicted former congressman should be pardoned.

Jan. 4, 2005. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez says "every pardon issued by the President is a political decision."

Compiled by Chona Galang and Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S story "Old house with a new role," which appeared on Page A20 of the Metro Section, it was misstated that the owner of the house was Engineer Edward Abiad. His first name is "Egbert" not Edward.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Debt-for-equity proposal now at lenders' doorsteps

By Michael Lim Ubac

WASHINGTON, D.C.—THE PHILIPPINE proposal to convert half of some $55 billion of its foreign debt into investments in antipoverty projects has finally reached the doorstep of the top lending institutions and multinational banks in America.

Following a 10-day series of global forums and meetings in New York, House Speaker Jose de Venecia arrived at the US capital last Saturday to speak before top officials of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

De Venecia's proposal seeks to tie the conversion of the Philippine debt to the United Nations Millennium Development Goal program of cutting world poverty by half by 2015.

The "debt-for-equity-in-MDG-investments" proposes to convert 50 percent of debt service receipts of lending institutions and multinational commercial banks into equity in the MDG projects of poor countries.

The proposal has already received crucial political endorsements from some members of the Paris Club and the G8 nations, but the last word will come from US lenders.

'Embarrassment'

Despite claim by the Freedom from Debt Coalition that the debt-for-equity proposal was actually an "embarrassment to the international community," De Venecia was personally requested by the IMF and WB officers and board of directors to explain the dynamics of the proposed scheme.

The Philippines owes the World Bank $3.1 billion and the IMF $591 million.

The world summit at the United Nations last week failed to produce any concrete proposal to meet the MDG goals, foremost of which is the reduction of global poverty by 50 percent toward 2015.

DE VENECIA

The De Venecia proposal is the only financial scheme put on the table, thus it was unanimously adopted by the communiques issued separately by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the summit of world leaders held at the UN to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the global forum.

Rechanneled

Under the proposal, which received crucial endorsements from leaders of Italy, Germany, Asian Development Bank and even UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the UN General Assembly, half of the $2.3 trillion total debt stock of the 100 poorest nations, including the Philippines, would be rechanneled to projects that would help meet the UN MDG goal to half poverty by 2015.

"We plead not for debt forgiveness, debt cancellation, debt moratorium, or debt discounts," said De Venecia when he spoke before the US-Asean Business Council, Heritage forum and Export-Import Bank yesterday.

"Our proposal requires no new monies from the rich countries. Neither do we envision any reduction or loss of face value in the creditor's financial asset. The debt-for-equity will provide us fiscal breathing space," he said.

He explained that instead of the budgetary allocations going to paying for debt service every year, they could go to irrigation, food-production and post-harvest facilities, reforestation, energy, mass housing, education, health and eco-tourism, among others.

In return, the lending institutions would have equity investments in these projects.

WB-IMF meeting

The specifics of the De Venecia scheme are to be threshed out during the WB and IMF meeting. De Venecia will meet with the IMF officials today and speak before the WB officials the following day.

He also plans to seek the support of the US Agency for International Development, Sen. Richard Lugar and Daniel Inouye, Rep. Darell Issa and former US Ambassador to Manila John Negroponte, now director of the US National Intelligence.

The Philippines' MDG target is estimated to cost roughly $6.5 billion in social investments yearly from 2005 to 2010.

But the Arroyo government can only manage to finance $5 billion yearly, resulting in a "residual-financing" gap of $1.5 billion.

But this year, the Philippines has to pay $2 billion in interest and another $2.5 billion in principal amortization on its foreign debt.

"If, say, 50 percent of this total amount is freed under our proposal, the Philippines will have the equivalent of P112.5 billion (at an exchange rate of P50 to $1) worth of antipoverty projects, enough to ensure its ability to meet all its MDGs," De Venecia said.

Ex-mayor, 10 others get 8 years

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S FOURTH DIVISION early this week sentenced the former mayor of Guimba, Nueva Ecija and ten other persons to eight years of imprisonment after finding them guilty of falsification of public documents relative to the public bidding for the construction of the town's public market in 1997.

Convicted were former town Mayor Nestor A. Bernardino, municipal Councilors Benito Rillo and Ernesto Mateo; municipal treasurer Eugelio Barawid; municipal planning and development coordinator Efren Fronda; four other municipal officials; and two NGO representatives.

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SC upholds with finality gov't-Ilusorio deal

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DEnied "with finality" a petition by the Presidential Commission on Good Government to undo the compromise settlement of a P51 billion ill-gotten wealth case in which a crony of former President Ferdinand Marcos relinquished a large block of shares in a telecommunications company in exchange for PCGG dropping criminal charges against him.

In a Sept. 7 ruling released yesterday, the high court said the PCGG's motion for reconsideration of an earlier court ruling upholding the settlement was "devoid of merit" because the PCGG had failed to raise any new point.

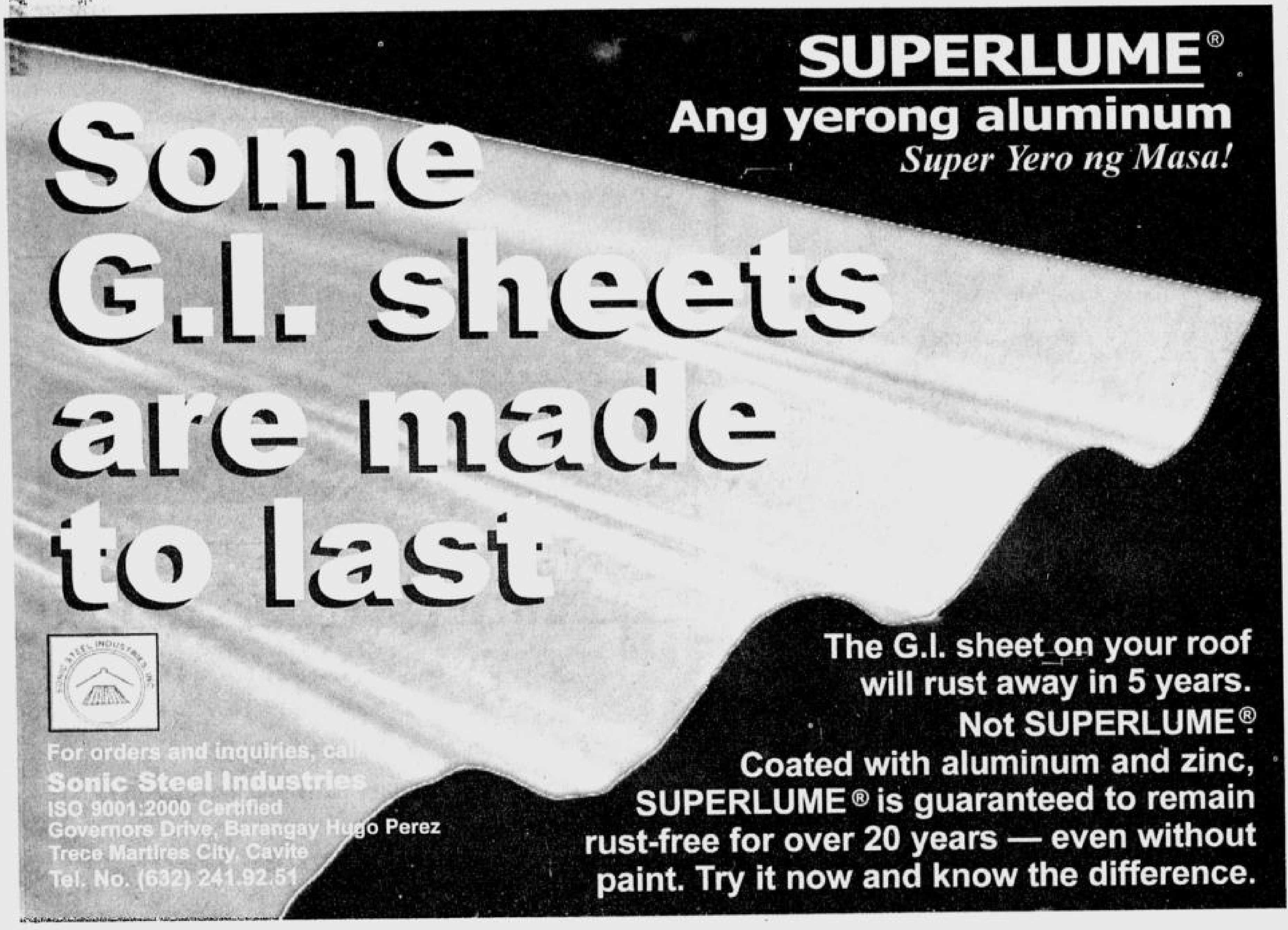
The case stems from a June 1998 resolution of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court approving a compromise settlement under which, Potenciano Ilusorio, now deceased, agreed to relinquish in favor of the government a total of 4,727 shares in the Philippine Overseas Telecommunication Corp. (POTC) out of the 5,400 POTC shares the PCGG had earlier sequestered. In exchange, criminal charges against Ilusorio were dropped and he was allowed to keep 673 POTC shares.

PCGG had charged that the shares in POTC, which controlled Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., had been illegally acquired using the Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MPLDC) put up by Marcos, his wife Imelda, and son Ferdinand Jr., along with associates Roberto Benedicto, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jose Africa, Manuel Nieto and Ilusorio.

Charging the deal was "highly anomalous," the present officers of the PCGG along with IRC and MPLDC filed a petition for certiorari asking the Supreme Court to invalidate the settlement.

The court, however, upheld the Sandiganbayan, noting in a ruling handed down last June 15 that the deal had been approved by both the Sandiganbayan and then President Fidel V. Ramos.

"With the imprimatur of no less than the former President Fidel V. Ramos and the approval of the Sandiganbayan, the compromise agreement must be accorded utmost respect. Such amicable settlement is not only allowed but even encouraged," the court said.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Congress OKs barangay polls for Oct. 2007

SENATORS AND congressmen yesterday approved a bicameral conference report setting the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections for October 2007, extending the term of current barangay and SK officials up to that date.

During a marathon hearing, members of the bicameral conference committee on the revision of laws and constitutional amendments agreed to a compromise date for the next barangay and SK elections: The last Monday of October 2007.

The report will be presented to both chambers for approval.

Under the compromise bill, the term of barangay and SK officials is automatically extended until October 2007, and the succeeding elections will be held every three years on the same date.

"Automatically, all the terms of the current elected barangay and SK officials will be extended up to Oct. 2007 until their successors are elected," said Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments and head of the Senate panel.

The term of barangay chairpersons and SK ex-officio members is likewise extended, he added.

Rep. Teodoro Locsin, head of the House panel, said that the date of the next elections was a "middle ground" arrived at after the two panels agreed to work on "mutual sincerity and goodwill to each other."

"It goes to show that we can really pass legislation very quickly," he said.

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(SGD.) BENJAMIN S. SANTOS
Insurance Commissioner

Brain drain now a nat'l 'hemorrhage'

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S OFFICIAL. THE BRAIN DRAIN HAS BEcome a "national hemorrhage." Some 80 percent of government doctors are now enrolled in nursing schools nationwide so they can land higher-paying jobs as nurses overseas, according to a group of concerned health professionals.

The situation was troubling since one Filipino doctor tended to between 10,000 and 26,000 patients, warned the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD).

The local ratio was a far cry from the United States and even Cuba where there was one doctor for every 225 patients.

"Let's look at the irony – we are producing so many nurses yet our hospitals are lacking in quality nurses and the quality of health service that we're giving to Filipinos is very poor," Dr. Gene Nisperos, HEAD secretary general, said yesterday in a press conference in Quezon City.

HEAD, an organization of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, linked up with the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) to pressure the government and other stakeholders to address the worsening health care problem.

Last week, the AHW predicted that the local health care system would crumble in two to three years unless the exodus of doctors and nurses was arrested.

In the media briefing, Nisperos said the brain drain started in the 1960s when doctors and nurses left for higher studies and training overseas.

By the mid-1970s, however, the Philippines was already the top exporter of doctors and nurses in the world, second only to India in peddling local doctors abroad.

The problem of health professionals leaving the country for better pay and working conditions came to a head in the late 1990s when the US and several European countries jacked up their demands for doctors and nurses.

Bandwagon

From 2000 to 2003, Nisperos said a total of 51,580 Filipino nurses left the country. In 2004, some 5,000 doctors jumped on the bandwagon to work as nurses. Around 4,000 more doctors are taking up nursing this year.

The growing number of doctors settling for a nurse's cap has been welcomed by nursing schools. At least 45 of them now offer an abbreviated nursing course for doctors lasting between 1 1/2 to 3 years, according to HEAD.

Nisperos said administrations, past and present, should have taken concrete steps to keep doctors and nurses in the country.

"This is mainly a government-sponsored phenomenon," he said. "We believe strong medicine is needed to address the hemorrhage in the health sector."

The HEAD-AHW alliance proposed four steps to deal with the health sector crisis: First, the Arroyo administration should increase the budget for health care and abide by the World Health Organization prescription that countries set aside at least 5 percent of their gross national product for this purpose. At present, only 0.6 percent of the GNP was purportedly allocated to the health sector.

Second, the government should work to adequately compensate doctors and nurses. In the South African country of Namibia, the alliance said a junior physician earned $1,161 monthly while a Filipino counterpart here had a salary of between $300 and $400.

Third, the government should review – or perhaps rescind – its commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Such commitments purportedly allow countries like the United Kingdom to lure local doctors and nurses to work abroad, with no regard for the fate of the local health care system.

Fourth, there should be more consultations among all stakeholders in the health care crisis, particularly patients, to arrive at other concrete solutions.

MIRPURI

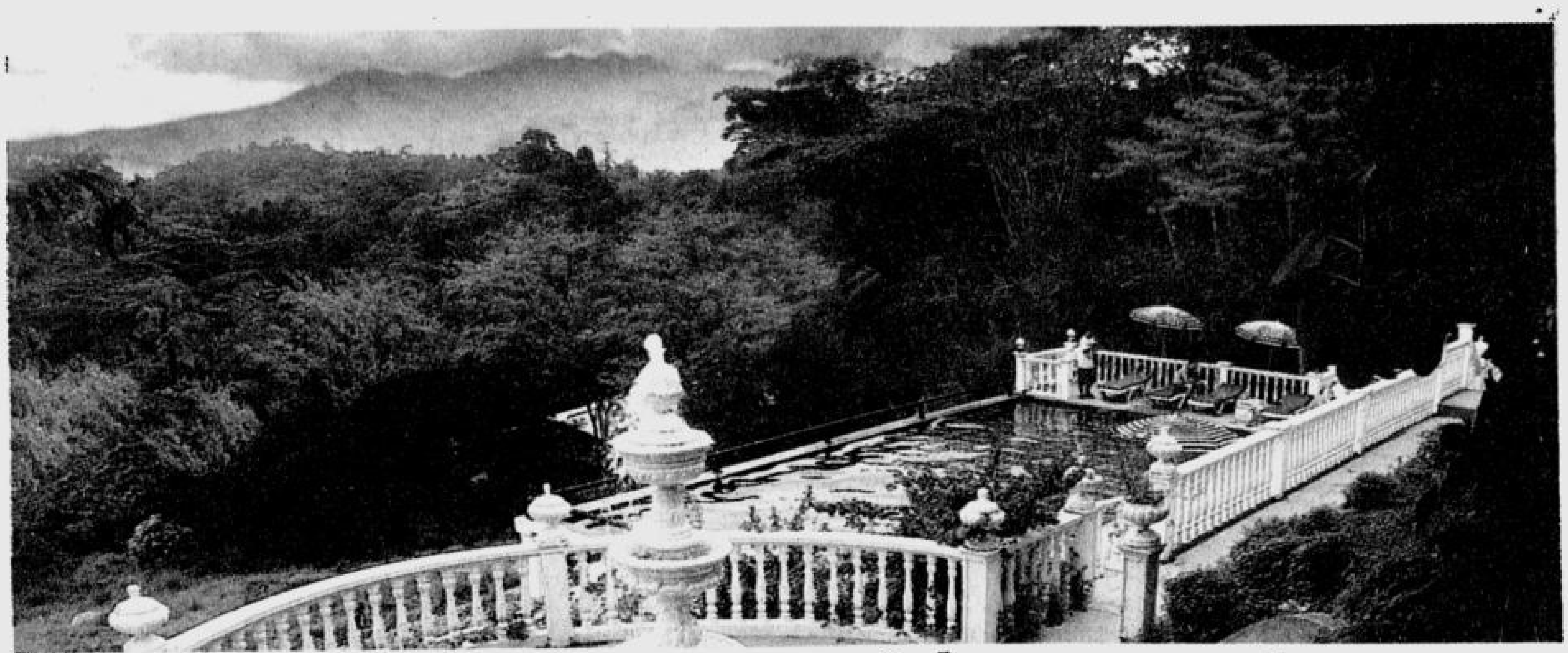
ARANETA

'Elegance of yesteryears' at Manila Polo Club

FORMER TOURISM SECRETARY AND BEAUty queen Gemma Cruz Araneta will be the guest of honor and speaker at the All Nations Women's Group cultural program for September to be held on Thursday at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The theme of The Elegance of Yesteryears and Afternoon of Fashion and Music program is "Cultural Horizons Reflected in Filipina Dress from Tree Bark and Leaves to Piña and Pearls."

Overall program chair is Lolita Escobar-Mirpuri, ANWG past president, while the cochair is Cristina Galang-Caedo, ANWG vice president. ANWG president Ditas Posadas enjoined members and guests to attend the program which would also raise funds for the group's scholarship program.



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BICOL IN LABUYO'S PATH

More rains to hit Luzon this week

By Blanche S. Rivera and Leila B. Salaverria

EXPECT MORE HEAVY RAINS THIS WEEK AS tropical depression "Labuyo" hits most parts of Luzon, particularly the provinces of Aurora and Isabela, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration yesterday raised storm signal no. 1 in Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Quezon, Polilio Island, Aurora, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan.

Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz warned residents of low-lying areas in northeastern Luzon to be on alert for possible flash floods and landslides.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday told reporters that President Macapagal-Arroyo met local and disaster officials and ordered coordinated efforts in preparation for Labuyo.

Cruz said the tropical depression had changed its path direction from west to northwest, prompting the President to call for the meeting.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, Pagasa said Labuyo was 120 km northeast of Daet, Camarines Norte and moving northwestward at 55 kph in the direction of Cagayan Valley.

The tropical depression is expected to be 100 km north northwest of Casiguran, Aurora or in the vicinity of Isabela later this afternoon; 200 km north of Laoag City tomorrow and 540 km north northwest of Laoag City by Friday as it moves out of the Philippines' area of responsibility.

The civil defense office and coast guard said Tuesday that the body of a 10-year-old boy was found Tuesday not far from his hometown of Oas in the Bicol peninsula after he was carried off by a flash flood.

The coast guard suspended ferry services Tuesday between Bicol and nearby islands as a precaution.

Five vessels with 373 passengers on board were left stranded in Bicol ports, the civil defense office said.

The continuous rains that flooded most of Metro Manila last week created more than 16,000 square meters of potholes which will cost the government P6.2 million to repair them.

The 16,546 square meters of potholes are found on 114 roads all over the National Capital Region, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Meanwhile, the DPWH announced yesterday the closure of road sections in the provinces of Aurora and Pampanga.

Flooding in Aurora forced the closure of the Camatis-Villa Aurora section of the Nueva Ecija-Aurora Road, the Cabatangan River Road Crossing, and the Barangay Dianed and Barangay Dinadawan portions of the Baler Casiguran Road.

In Pampanga, mud and debris prompted the closure of the Sta. Ana portion, or kilometer 57 to 76, of the Candaba-Baliwag Road.

In Metro Manila, the DPWH is fast-tracking the construction of the new Tumana Bridge, which would replace the Tumana spillway being used to prevent vehicles from being swept away by floods.

The Tumana Bridge is expected to be completed by December 2005.

The DPWH started this week the bidding for the project's fourth and final phase, which will cost P50 million, said DPWH National Capital Region director Robert Lala. It is expected to be completed in 150 days.

Since the bridge remains unfinished, motorists use the Tumana spillway to cross the Marikina River. *With reports from Christine O. Avendano, AFP*

Lea Salonga's pa named new chair of SBMA

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo has chosen the father of singer Lea Salonga to be the new chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, according to a source privy to the Malacañang selection process.

Feliciano "Phil" Salonga will take his oath on Thursday as the new chair of the SBMA, the state-owned corporation that manages the development of the Subic Bay Freeport, the source said in a telephone interview.

Salonga's appointment came more than three weeks after Francisco Licuanan III resigned as SBMA chair and presidential adviser for the Subic-Clark Alliance Development (Scad), supposedly in protest at what people close to him described as "politicking" at the agency.

Sen. Richard Gordon, whose alleged lobbying for his protégés reportedly irked Licuanan, has confirmed receiving reports of Salonga's appointment.

Reached by phone on Tuesday, Gordon said: "I think [Salonga's] a good man, decent. I'm happy for him."

The senator was chair of the SBMA in 1992 when the government converted Subic from an American naval base.

Two weeks ago, Gordon threatened to withdraw support from the President over the alleged plan by Malacañang to lift the ban on the import of used vehicles into the freeport where smuggling is supposed to be rampant.

"If [Salonga] would make Subic Bay Freeport world class, I'm with him," Gordon said.

The senator has expressed alarm over the deterioration in the business climate at Subic after the pullout of Federal Express, Acer and several big pioneer firms there.

Salonga, referred to as "Captain" by friends and peers, is 76 and a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kingspoint, New York, according to Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

The governor and his son, SBMA director JV Magsaysay, declined to confirm the information about Salonga's appointment. They said it should be left to Malacañang to announce it.

The governor, who claims to be a "longtime friend" of Salonga, said the man was ideal for the job.

He said Salonga was president of the Subic Shipyard Corp., also known as Philseco, in Subic, Zambales. He served as vice chair of the Bataan shipyard and was executive chair of the Westmont Bank.

A source from the Bases Conversion Development Authority said Armand Arreza, said to be a protégé of Gordon, has been named SBMA administrator.

The BCDA source, however, said they were worried over the delay in the appointment of a presidential adviser for the Scad, the other position that Licuanan held.

Licuanan had endorsed Roberto Garcia, president of automotive battery maker Ramcar, for SBMA chair. Gordon, on the other hand, recommended Rodolfo "Inky" Reyes, former SBMA deputy administrator, for the post.

Officials in Pampanga and Tarlac endorsed Renato Diaz, the presidential adviser for Central Luzon.

Antiterror bill reminds militants of martial law

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANT PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES conjured visions reminiscent of the country's human rights experience under martial law as the House starts deliberations on the proposed antiterror legislation in Congress.

Gabriela party-list Rep. Liza Maza said the proposed antiterror bill, for instance, authorizes warrantless arrests under certain circumstances.

"Section 14 of the proposed bill, the arrest without a warrant and subsequently, the extension of detention for 15 days call to mind the dreaded ASSO, or the arrest, search and seizure order and the PDA or preventive detention action during martial law," Maza said.

Maza said that while the dictator Ferdinand Marcos used the communist threat to declare martial law and suspend civil liberties, President Macapagal-Arroyo is using the so-called terrorist threat to "scare the people into accepting what are clearly affronts to civil liberties."

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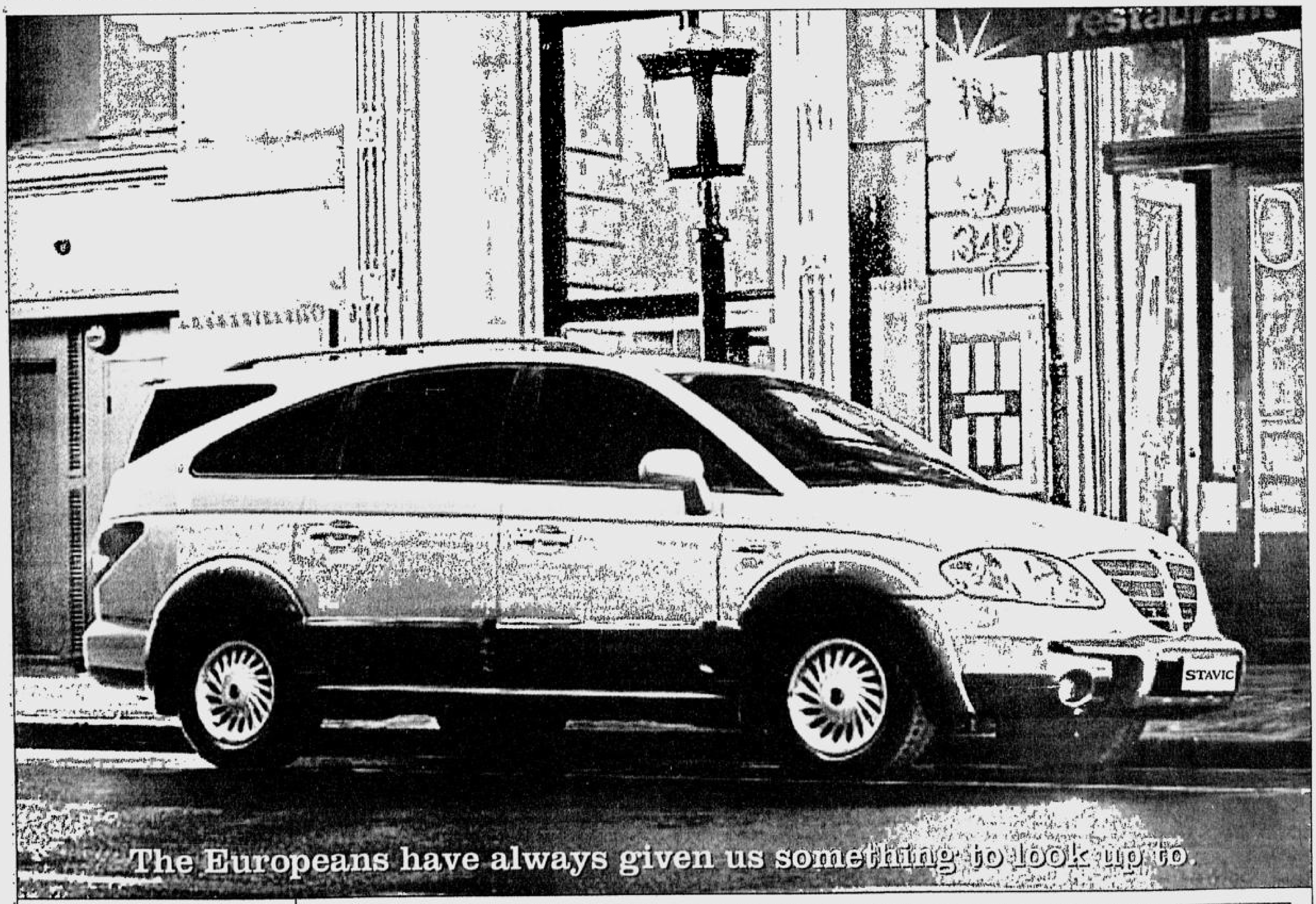

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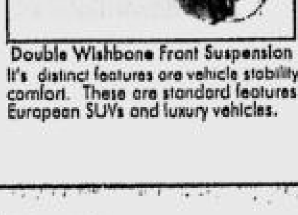
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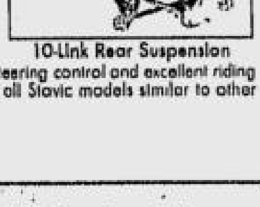
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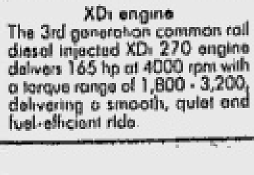
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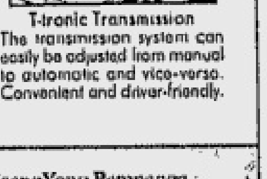
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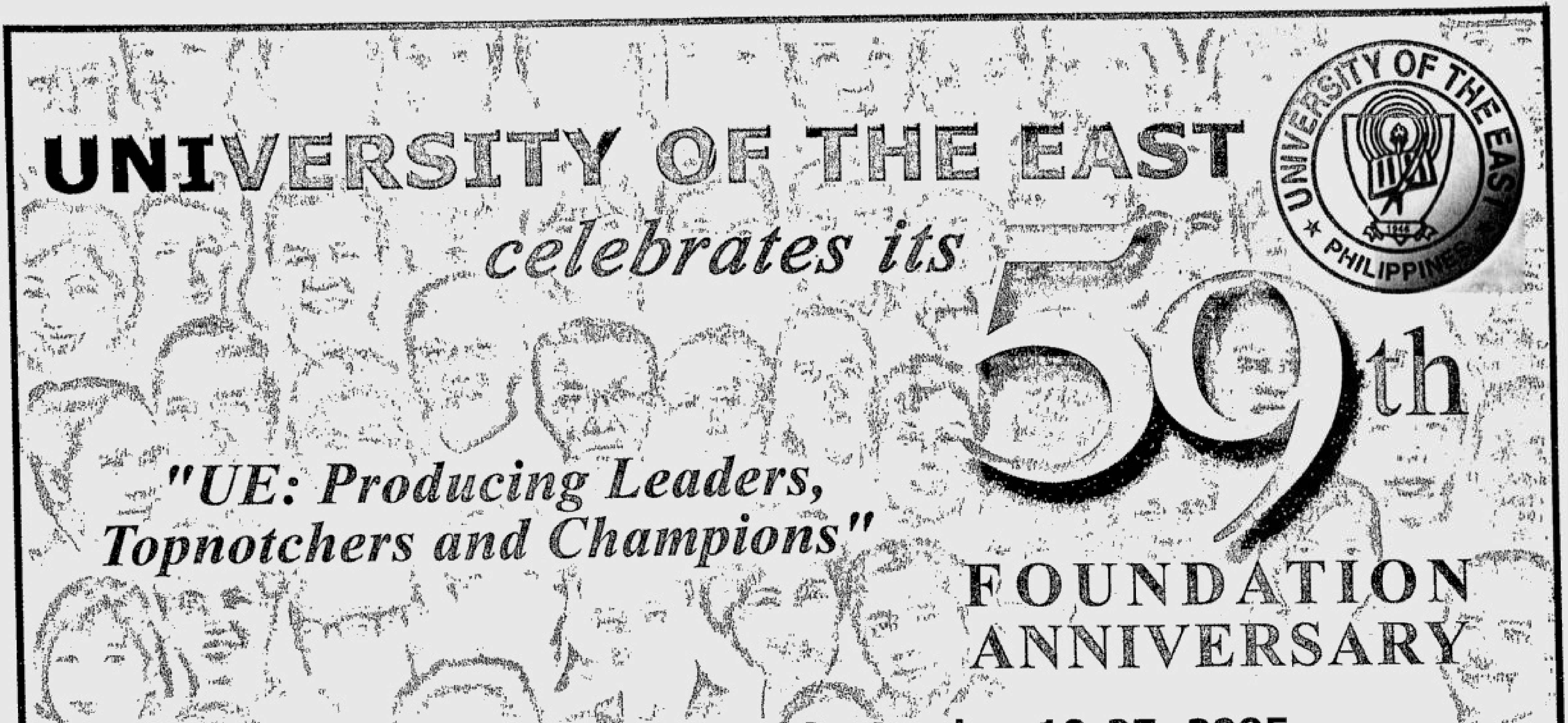

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Details of events are subject to change without prior notice.

September 19 Monday

MANILA CAMPUS

8 a.m.	Parade of the UE Manila Community led by the UE Band • Campus premises
9 a.m.	Thanksgiving Mass • Conference Hall
10 a.m.	Opening of the Art Exhibit and General College Exhibit • Dalupan Lobby
11 a.m.	Opening of the Student Bazaar and Exhibits • CAS Patio and College of Education Lobby
12 p.m.	Sports Festival: Basketball and Volleyball Competitions (students, faculty members and employees) • Gym 5
3 p.m.	T'boli Dance Drama by the UE Dance Troupe • UE Theater

CALOOCAN CAMPUS

6:30 a.m.	Fun Run • Campus premises
8 a.m.	Parade of the UE Caloocan Community • Campus premises
9 a.m.	Thanksgiving Mass • Gymnasium
10 a.m.	Opening of the General College Exhibit and Student Bazaar • Tan Yan Kee Academic Building Lobby

September 20 Tuesday

MANILA CAMPUS

8 a.m.	*Tagisan ng Talino* Inter-High School Competition • Conference Hall
9 a.m.	Free Seminar for High School Principals and Teachers • Multimedia Presentation Rooms A&B, CIT
	Sports Festival • Gym 5
4 p.m.	Battle of the Bands • Quadrangle
7 p.m.	Star FM Tour featuring Kitchie Nadal, Cueshe, Orange and Lemons, Sponge Cola, Session Road and Barbie Almabis • Quadrangle

CALOOCAN CAMPUS

9 a.m.	Free Seminar for High School Principals and Teachers • Multimedia Room and Computer Laboratory, Tan Yan Kee Academic Building
1 p.m.	T'boli Dance Drama by the UE Dance Troupe • Gymnasium
3 p.m.	UE Pop Idol II Semi-finals • Gymnasium

September 21 Wednesday

MANILA CAMPUS

9 a.m.	*Tagisan ng Talino at Talento* among UE Colleges • UE Theater
10 a.m.	University Convocation featuring Dr. Direk Lavanseri, Professor, College of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University • Conference Hall
1 p.m.	Ultimate Mind Quest by the University Student Council • CAS Multipurpose Hall
3 p.m.	*Isperekengkeng Isperekangkang* by the UE Drama Company • UE Theater

CALOOCAN CAMPUS

9 a.m.	Sports Festival • Gymnasium
6 p.m.	"Music is Cool" with guest performer Parokya ni Edgar • Field

September 22 Thursday

MANILA CAMPUS

7 a.m.	Elementary and High School Day • Elementary and Secondary Laboratory Schools

CALOOCAN CAMPUS

9 a.m.	Inter-High School Cheerdance Competition • Gymnasium Sports Festival • Gymnasium
6:30 p.m.	*Isperekengkeng Isperekangkang* by the UE Drama Company • venue to be announced

September 23 Friday

MANILA CAMPUS

	Sports Festival • Gym 5
	University Service Awards • Conference Hall
	UE Pop Idol II Grand Finals • UE Theater
	Musical Extravaganza and Campus Party • Quadrangle

September 27 Tuesday

MANILA CAMPUS

3 p.m.	Mr. & Miss UE Pageant • UE Theater

HONOREES and AWARDEES

UE's 2005 Outstanding Teachers

NORMA A. TIU
College of Dentistry

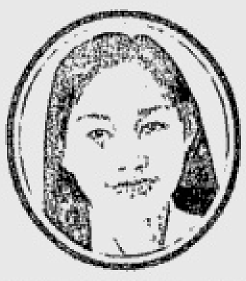
CRISTINA F. DEL ROSARIO
Elementary and Secondary Laboratory Schools

UE's 2005 Model Management Employee

RUFINO J. MANDALIHAN
Department of Human Resources and Development

UE's 2005 Model Rank and File Employees

LEONARDO M. ANGELES JR.
Department of Registration and Records Management



LEONILA L. YAO
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UE's 2005 Service Awardees

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JOSE DUWI E. ESCALA, College of Engineering.

25 YEARS

CARMEN L. ALGARNE, College of Education; ROSALIA R. ARAO, College of Business Administration (CBA)-Caloocan; RODOLFO L. BALAJADIA, Environmental Services Office (ESO)-Manila; JAIRUS H. BAUTISTA, Stock and Receiving Office-Caloocan; DIOSCORO Z. CAMACHO, Department of Security; FERNANDO O. CELESTINO, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)-Caloocan Laboratory; DANIEL RAMON N. CONSENGCO, Dept. of Human Resources and Development (DHRD); MILADY C. CONSTANTINO, CBA Manila; ERLINDA E. DERPO, Department of Libraries-Manila; LOUISA ELISA S. FERNANDEZ, CBA Manila; LEO T. GAVIOLA, University Relations Office; EMILY R. GWEKOH, Elementary and Secondary Laboratory Schools; RIZALINA C. JACINTO, CAS Manila; RONALD M. MANALILI, ESO Caloocan; AMARO P. OBIÑA, ESO Caloocan; ROLANDO M. PEREZ, Department of Physical Education (PE)-Manila; CRESENCIA S. REYES, CBA Caloocan; AURELIA T. SANTOS, Dept. of Internal Auditing; HELEN D. TIZON, CBA Manila; RICARDO M. UY, Chancellor's Office-Caloocan; JAIME B. VILLAGRACIA, Dept. of PE-Caloocan; PEDRO D. VILLAR, CBA Caloocan.

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China unhappy over NorthRail delay, says GMA

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS UNHAPPY over the delay of the $503-million North Railway (NorthRail) rehabilitation project, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President said that Chinese President Hu Jintao had complained to her about the project during their meeting at the sidelines of the World Summit in New York last week.

"Basically he (Hu) was complaining about the delay... He was very really concerned about the delays," the President said in an interview with ANC television aired on Monday night.

The Philippines and China entered into a $421-million loan agreement for the rehabilitation of the railway system during the President's state visit to China in 2004.

A contract was signed between the North Luzon Railways Corp. and the China National Machinery and Equipment Group for the rehabilitation of the 32-km railway line from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan.

The railway, which will link Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Northern Luzon, was to have been the biggest joint undertaking of the Philippines and China.

The $503-million project has become a subject of a Senate inquiry after Senate President Franklin Drilon claimed that it was among the "colossal corrupt deals" entered into by the Arroyo government. He said it was a major reason for his withdrawal of support for the President in July.

In the TV interview, Ms Arroyo said she had informed Hu of the relocation of the thousands of families living along the railroad tracks, which is being undertaken by local authorities.

"With or without the NorthRail, the relocation of the squatter families is really a major achievement in urban renewal and so we've been paying a lot of attention to that," she said.

Ms Arroyo quoted Vice President Noli de Castro, who is on top of government's housing program and is handling the relocation, as saying that the construction of the railway may begin by October.

"Actually their (Chinese) engineers are already there, doing the preliminary work," the President said.

Ms Arroyo said she and Hu discussed Chinese investments in the country, including possible Chinese participation in the mining industry.

"They have lots of mining investments coming up," she said, apart from a $1 billion nickel mining project in Surigao. *Christine Avendaño*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 21, 2005
Matthew, Apostle

1st Reading:	Eph 4:1-7,11-13
Gospel:	Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

Here we meet Matthew, a man of many jobs, experiences and lives: a tax collector, though a minor official, with many friends, who likes parties and threw one for Jesus to meet them all, a man shunned by good religious people and leaders of the community, in collusion with the Romans, making a living off his neighbors' ill fortune, a public sinner who knew the touch and the look and the word of mercy from the Master's coming after him. Jesus tells all those who scoffed at his choice of Matthew: "healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: "What I want is mercy, not sacrifice." I didn't come to call the righteous but sinners! And so Matthew becomes apostle, one of the twelve, disciple of the Master of Mercy, scribe and evangelist of the Word and all he writes is about what Mercy is, not sacrifice, spirit not only law, freedom and hope not only demands. How much have we learned from this man about the mercy of our God?

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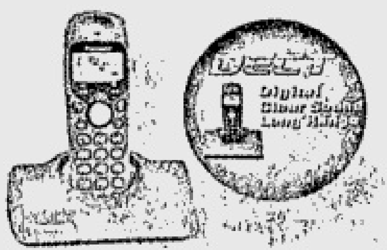

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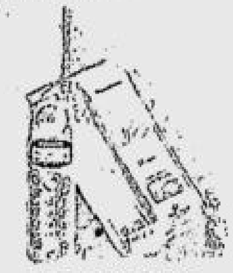
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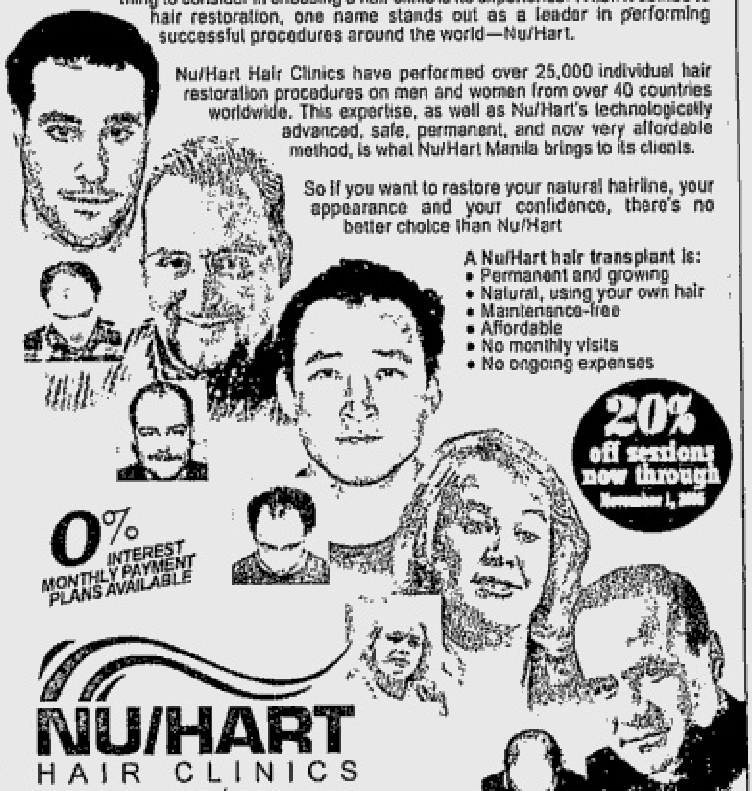
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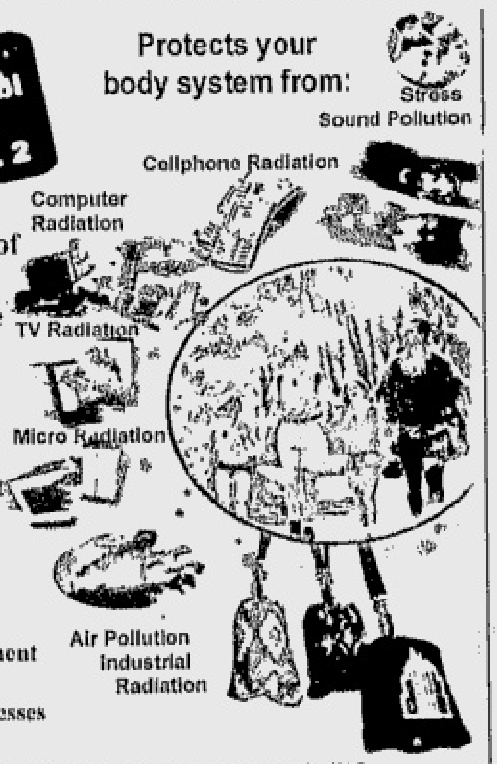

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GMA credits MILF with wins vs terror

THIS COULD BE THE reason the Arroyo administration has not declared the Moro Islamic Liberation Front a terrorist organization.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said in an interview on ANC on Monday night that it was with the help of the country's largest Muslim rebel group that government forces had scored some of their big successes in the war on terror in Mindanao.

"You may not totally buy this but ours is the only peace process in the world that has an institutional peace component," Ms Arroyo said.

She cited an agreement with the MILF on exchange of intelligence information and swapping of orders of battle which, she said, had enabled the government to interdict movements by terror groups.

"Many of the celebrated cases of killing or capturing famous names in the terrorist field have been done really with the cooperation of the MILF," she said.

"Even in the Liguasan marsh, major victories have already been achieved by our soldiers and that's because the MILF did not protect the other side."

Liguasan is an area of swamps and mangroves 40 km long and 30 km wide which has provided sanctuary for rebels and bandits for decades. It is so difficult to penetrate that kidnap gangs use the area to hide their victims and avoid government pursuit, officials say.

Ms Arroyo said she did not believe the MILF was protecting Khadaffy Janjalani, the elusive Abu Sayyaf leader variously reported to have been killed in military operations. The reports have remained unconfirmed.

Ms Arroyo specified that battlefield cooperation with the MILF was "against the terrorists."

"That's the reason why up to now the US has not declared the MILF a terrorist organization ... It's a US decision, nonetheless," she said.

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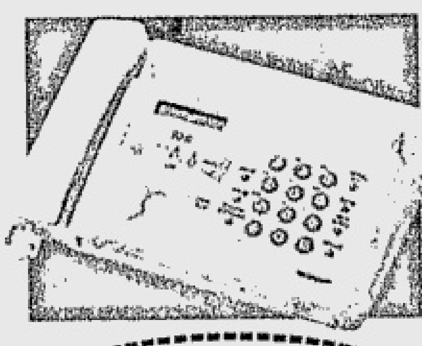

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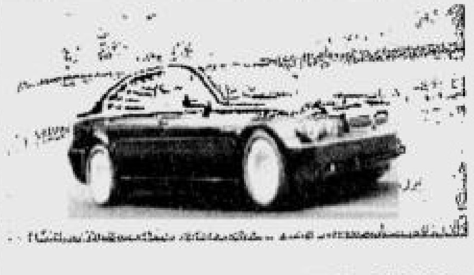

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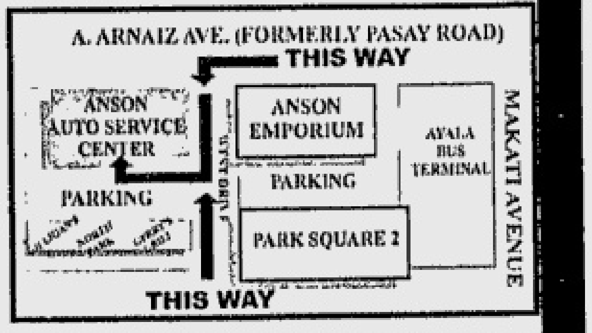

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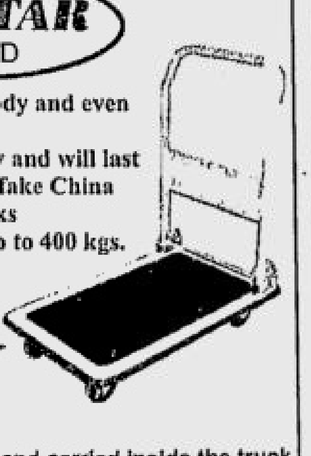
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New hurricane threatens Florida, US Gulf states

MIAMI—US AUTHORITIES ON MONDAY ordered the evacuation of several islands off southern Florida and parts of Miami as Tropical Storm Rita bore down on the coast amid fears it could soon become a hurricane.

"This storm can gain power very, very quickly ... this is serious business," said Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, ordering residents to flee the Florida Keys islands, Miami Beach and other low-lying areas of Miami.

The governor urged his brother President George W. Bush to declare a state of emergency in Florida to free federal relief funds.

Experts said the storms could eventually take it to New Orleans and the Gulf coast which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29.

The likelihood of Rita barreling over the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico sent world crude prices surging Monday. Rita pounded islands off the Bahamas Monday and was expected to strengthen into a hurricane. Forecasters said it could reach category three on the five-level Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale.

While the Bahamas, Cuba and southern Florida were the most immediately threatened, with Texas at risk over the weekend, hurricane experts warned there was also a possibility the storm might slam ashore near New Orleans.

Bill Doran, operations division chief for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security said authorities were keeping a close eye on Rita. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin suspended the return of the population because of the threat from Rita and warned that people may have to be ready to flee again.

He said as many as 30,000 people, most of them national guardsmen and relief workers, might need to be evacuated if Rita were to strike the US Gulf Coast areas recovering from Katrina's wrath.

Florida's governor said a total of 500 National Guard troops were on standby in southern Florida. "Weather conditions will grow steadily worse tonight and tomorrow," Bush said.

In Miami, residents packed supermarkets to stock up on food, and long lines formed outside gas stations.

The US National Hurricane Center forecast a track that would have the storm just skirting the Bahamas, Cuba and Key West in Atlantic waters and eventually making landfall in Texas over the weekend. But experts warned that hurricanes are highly unpredictable, and a so-called "cone of probability" in the forecast indicates the storm might enter Florida near Miami and later make a second landfall between northeastern Mexico and the swamplands of southern Louisiana just west of New Orleans.

Should the storm eventually land west of New Orleans, the city would find itself on the so-called "dirty side" of the hurricane, where winds are the most powerful.

"There is deep concern about this storm causing more flooding in New Orleans," the US president said. "And again, if it were to rain a lot, there is concern from the Army Corps of Engineers that the levees might break." Rita also sent jitters on global oil markets amid fears of further disruption of crude production in the US Gulf, which had been severely affected by Hurricane Katrina. *AFP*

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Encephalitis outbreak kills over 1,000

KATMANDU—AN OUTBREAK OF JAPANESE ENcephalitis has killed more than 1,000 people across South Asia, most of them children, officials said Tuesday.

The death toll from the mosquito-borne disease reached 1,054 after Nepalese officials reported that 271 people have died in the Himalayan kingdom.

The death toll in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state rose Tuesday to 783, with 16 people dying the previous day, said O.P. Singh, the state's top health official.

But the disease appears to be on the wane in Nepal with the end of monsoon rains, said Harinath Acharya, spokesperson at the Health Ministry in Katmandu. The rains create puddles and ponds where the mosquitoes can breed.

The higher numbers from Nepal reflect delayed reports of deaths reaching health officials, Acharya said.

Officials have faced great difficulty in gathering data from Nepal, as most deaths have been in rural villages in southern Nepal that are far from towns and cities and often reachable only by narrow dirt roads.

Until last week, officials were only reporting 204 people killed by the disease.

Most of the deaths were in and around villages in the border city of Nepalgunj, about 500 km west of Katmandu.

"We have already lost 64 patients this year. But the number has gone down in the past few days ... we are now getting only about five new patients every day," said Arjun Gautam, an official at Bheri Zonal Hospital in Nepalgunj.

The hospital was running short of medicines, and poor patients were unable to afford to buy the drugs at private pharmacies, which are more expensive.

"I have already spent the 1,000 rupees (US$14) I had with me. Now I have no money and still I am unwell," 21-year-old Mangal Tharu said from his hospital bed.

In the last two months, the few hospitals in the area have been overwhelmed by patients. Hospital staff have been forced to put patients on the floor and in storage rooms.

Japanese encephalitis has sickened 1,665 people this year in Nepal, Acharya said.

The government has sent medical teams and thousands of mosquito nets to affected areas.

Japanese encephalitis causes swelling of the brain. Symptoms include high fever, seizures and vomiting. *AP*

N. Korea scuttles nuke pact, wants reactors from US

BEIJING—NORTH KOREA SAID TUESDAY IT would not dismantle its nuclear weapons until the United States delivered light-water reactors, casting doubt on an agreement heralded as a breakthrough for peace.

North Korea had pledged Monday at six-nation talks in Beijing to give up its atomic weapons in return for energy and security guarantees. But it warned Tuesday that the offer was conditional on US concessions.

"They are telling us to give up everything, but there is nothing we should give up first," North Korea's envoy to the talks Kim Gye-gwan told reporters at Beijing airport before leaving for Pyongyang.

"The United States can prove a change to its hostile policy against the DPRK (North Korea) by providing light water reactors." His comments echoed an earlier statement by North Korea's foreign ministry, which said the United States "should not even dream" it would dismantle its nuclear arsenal until Washington had provided the reactors.

US ally Japan immediately rejected the demand as "not acceptable," while China said all sides should honor their "solemn political commitment" to a joint document issued at the six-nation talks Monday.

"The common statement was passed by the six parties and I don't think that the DPRK had any misunderstanding about this common statement," foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said.

Monday's agreement had been cautiously welcomed by world leaders as an important step towards ending the three-year stand-off, with US President George W. Bush calling it a "positive sign." The hawkish North Korean comments appeared to be a response to Washington's portrayal of the deal as a breakthrough, and to set a bargaining position ahead of the new round of six-nation talks in November.

The on-and-off talks which opened in August 2003 brought together North and South Korea, Russia, Japan, the United States and hosts China. *AFP*

US to resume manned lunar mission in 2018

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States will send four astronauts to the moon in 2018 in a major return to its pioneering manned missions into space, Nasa administrator Michael Griffin announced Monday.

Nasa is to design a new rocket based on the technology from its aging shuttles that are to be retired in 2010, Griffin said. The new rocket could be orbiting in space by 2012.

The last manned mission to the moon was the Apollo 17 rocket in 1972. The new mission will also launch preparations to set up a permanent base on the moon, Griffin said.

He estimated the cost of the moon program at 104 billion dollars and insisted it should not be affected by the cost of paying for the rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina or the Iraq war.

President George W. Bush announced in January last year that Nasa would resume manned missions to the moon as a first step toward sending humans to Mars and beyond.

Griffin said the new rocket would be "very Apollo-like, with updated technology. Think of it as Apollo on steroids." But the new Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) will enable astronauts to spend four times longer on the moon than the Apollo astronauts. The new missions will spend up to one week on the moon.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) plans to build a new heavy-lift rocket carrying the CEV, which would be able to take up to six crew.

"This spacecraft and systems will build upon the foundation of the proven designs and technologies used in the Apollo and space shuttle programs, while having far greater capability," Griffin said.

Nasa said crews and cargo will be carried into orbit on a shuttle-based launch system, using a solid rocket booster and an upper stage powered by a shuttle main engine. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Al-Qaida claims responsibility for London bombings

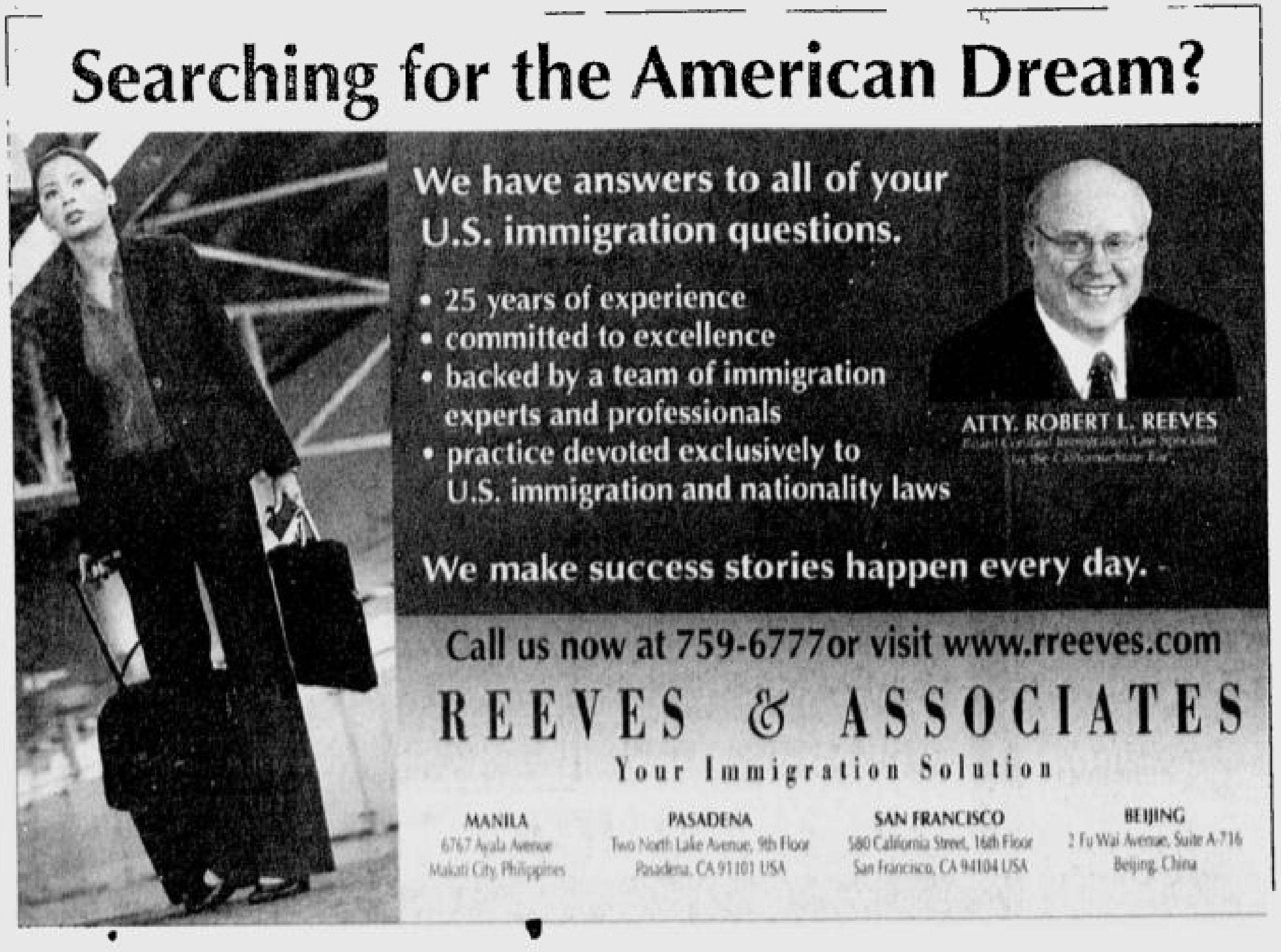
CAIRO—Al-Qaida deputy Ayman al-Zawahri said his terror network carried out the July 7 London bombings in a statement broadcast on an Arab satellite television station, marking the group's first direct claim of responsibility for the attacks that killed 52 people. "The blessed London attack was one which al-Qaida was honored to launch against the British Crusader's arrogance and against the American Crusader aggression on the Islamic nation for 100 years," Al-Zawahri said in the tape aired Monday on Qatar-based Al-Jazeera TV. "In their final testament, the heroic brothers in the London attacks ... provided great lessons to the Islamic nation and Muslims in Pakistan to oppose the infidels," said Al-Zawahri, who wore a black turban and white shirt and spoke to someone off-camera who was interviewing him. *AP*

Vote counting begins in Afghanistan

KABUL—Counting of votes in Afghanistan's historic parliamentary elections began Tuesday, hours after al-Qaida's No. 2 leader criticized the legitimacy of the election in a tape aired on Arabic television. Trucks, helicopters and even donkeys were bringing the estimated 6 million ballots from far-flung regions for counting over the next two weeks to decide the makeup of Afghanistan's first new parliament in more than 30 years. A spokesperson for the Afghan-UN election board, Aleem Siddique, said the transportation of ballots to 34 counting centers nationwide was expected to be completed Thursday, and that tallying of the votes, set to involve more than 7,000 staff, had begun in several centers Tuesday. Afghan and international officials hailed Sunday's vote as a major step toward democracy after decades of war and turmoil, although initial indications were that turnout was just over 50 percent. *AP*

US banks freeze terror funds

WASHINGTON—The US government moved Monday to financially incapacitate a man who allegedly worked with Osama bin Laden and others to provide support to terror networks in Albania. The Treasury Department ordered US banks to freeze any bank accounts or other financial assets found in this country belonging to Abdul Latif Saleh, who holds Jordanian and Albanian citizenship. The order also prohibits Americans from doing business with him. The department alleged that bin Laden provided Saleh with $600,000 to encourage the creation of "extremist groups" in Albania. Saleh founded an Albanian jihadist group that has been bankrolled by the Al Haramain Foundation, an Islamic charity with alleged links to al-Qaida, the Treasury Department said *AP*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Schroeder won't give up post

BERLIN—GERMAN CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schroeder vowed not to give up his post without a fight after his party was pipped by Angela Merkel's conservatives in a tight election, setting the stage for weeks of political turmoil.

Energized by a vote that put them just three parliamentary seats shy of Merkel's conservatives despite forecasts of a blow-out, Schroeder's Social Democrats said they were ready to talk with everyone on forming a new government.

Merkel echoed the line, telling reporters: "We have the mandate to form a government. We are clearly the strongest party." But the SPD had lost none of its election-night bombast on Monday, insisting that no coalition was possible without Schroeder at the top—akin to calling for the conservatives to topple Merkel, whom he had publicly taunted on Sunday night.

"It is clear that Germans do not want Mrs Merkel as their chancellor," SPD chief Franz Muentefering told a news briefing.

The election left both main parties too weak to secure a majority with their natural coalition partners—Merkel with the liberal Free Democrats who share her radical economic reform goals; and Schroeder with the environmentalist Greens who have ruled with him for seven years.

Even after a bitter campaign in which Schroeder painted Merkel as a cold radical bent on dismantling the welfare state and the conservatives labelled him a liar, many analysts believe a "grand coalition" between the two largest parties is the most likely outcome to Sunday's debacle.

But with Merkel and Schroeder both claiming a mandate to rule and personal hostilities between the two leaders at a high point, an agreement between them looks far off.

Roland Koch, conservative leader of the state of Hesse, said Schroeder's attacks would fail to divide the CDU/CSU from seeking to form a government with the liberals.

A vote to reappoint Merkel head of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group would demonstrate the conservatives remained fully behind their candidate, he told ZDF television.

"The Chancellor is seeking, in my view out of an unbelievable mixture of arrogance and overconfidence, to claim he won the election. But the truth is both camps didn't achieve their goals," Koch said.

The unprecedented uncertainty weighed heavily on financial markets, which had hoped for a clear mandate for Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), their sister Christian Social Union (CSU) and the FDP. They had vowed cuts in payroll costs, easing of firing rules and a simplification of the tax system. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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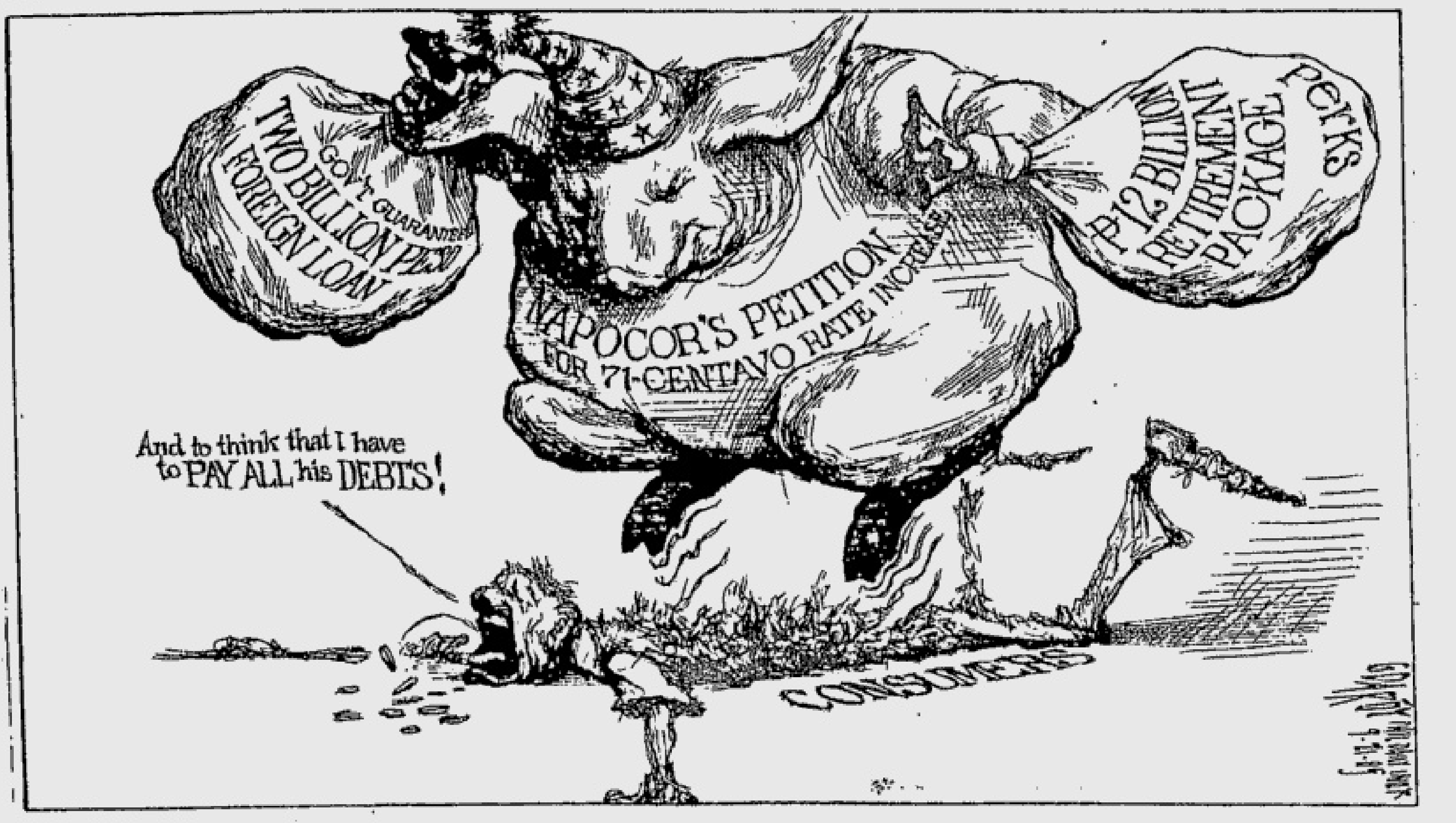
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CONSUMERS

Poorer and poorer

EDITORIAL

DURING A MAKATI RALLY LAST JULY 8, ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos asked the crowd if they would tolerate liars, cheats and thieves. The crowd bellowed, "No!"

She could ask such a question with a straight face, not only because she is a politician, but because she knows we are a forgetful people incapable of appreciating irony—not to mention the fact that aside from exile and the confiscation of some of their worldly goods, the Marcoses have never really been held accountable to the people.

The ousting of discredited regimes, if it doesn't immediately result in the execution of the leading personalities of the fallen government, often results in some sort of permanent ban on an expelled dynasty. For this reason, Austria expelled their former imperial family, the Hapsburgs; the Italians to this day do not permit the return of the discredited royal house of Savoy; Egypt forbids the return of the descendants of King Farouk; and the Iranians bar the return of the family of the disgraced Shah. The world is populated with roving former dictators, stripped of power but usually not all their wealth, maintaining a shadowy existence far from their former domains. Look at the Duvaliers, the dictatorial dynasty of Haiti, and contemporary of the Marcoses in terms of being vomited out by their people.

The loss of absolute power usually results in absolute disgrace, including a ban on political participation in the nations that rejected them. In the case of the first family that benefited from martial law, hoping to turn itself into a home-grown royal family, the kindest thing that can be said is that their countrymen are so kind they have allowed them to reassert a social and political status other nations would consider not only improper but unjust.

It is said that the sins of the father shouldn't be visited upon the son, and Representative Marcos has been circumspect, most of the time, in commenting on her father's regime. But what of the sins of both the father and the mother? And of their friends? The dockets of courts are clogged with cases concerning Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, including cases in which their children acted as the direct beneficiaries of their looting, or administrators of the many, layered accounts meant to keep the loot firmly in their family's hands. Many other cases concerning the Marcos cronies continue to gather dust in the courts. Very few have been resolved—and then all too often not in the people's favor. Government agencies tasked not just with recovering the Marcos wealth, but by so doing with firmly establishing the verdict of history have made too little progress in the 19 years since the Marcoses fled for their lives.

Once again, Sept. 21, a date chosen by Ferdinand Marcos because of his obsession with numerology, and not because it bears any relevance to factual truth, has rolled around. In the days of the dictatorship, this date was proclaimed a "Day of Thanksgiving," a time for praising the "New Society." It was a national festival to praise a lie, for Proclamation 1081 was signed on Sept. 22, supposedly in reaction to another lie, the faked assassination attempt against Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. The arrests that truly heralded martial law took place on Sept. 23: the real date of martial law.

Here again, we are shown up as a nation incapable of appreciating irony. Perpetuating the date Marcos chose, instead of the date when the country felt the full, brutal force of his ambitions, only fosters his delusions of grandeur and not the sinister reality of his actions.

Our country remains deprived of closure, when it comes to martial law. To add irony upon irony, the truest believers and admirers of Marcos, Joseph Estrada and Fernando Poe Jr., have caused divisions and have traumatized the nation to the extent that our society needs closure in terms of their controversial political fates, as well.

In every major political controversy since 1986, there has been no definitive legal resolution to exalt right over wrong. Everything remains clouded by accommodation, delay and inconclusive efforts resulting in unsatisfactory compromises. The result is a country that gets poorer by the day, progressively impoverished by its inability to get justice. Without justice, there is no hope. Without hope, there is no possibility of salvation for the poor.

Lying is contagious in Malacañang

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW CAN THE SENDING OF FBI FILES TO the Philippines by Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino be "espionage" when the information they contain is about the Philippines. And I don't understand why the two bothered to send them at all when all that information was already public knowledge here. Just go to any coffee shop frequented by journalists and camp followers from both sides of the political fence and you will hear talk of an "impending coup," of "disgruntled military officers" and of "troop movements." In fact, if you listen closely enough, you will hear certain characters say with certainty, as though they are in the know, that the coup would take place in a few days or weeks. These are what the American "spies" heard and reported to Washington—and what Aragoncillo and Aquino allegedly stole and sent back here.

But they are not facts but dreams and wishful thinking of our home-grown steak commandos who do nothing the whole day but stay in coffee shops and spread rumors. Most of them have no jobs so they have all the time to concoct scenarios and spread them around like manure.

There are certain characters who, when you ask them the hour of the day, will answer like zombies, "*Malapit na, malapit na,*" (meaning the coup is near) as if they are the ones giving the orders to the coup plotters. Any journalist can give you their names if you ask, but I won't name them here for the sake of charity. But while we laugh at them, the gullible Americans, alas, took them seriously. And due to the characteristic Filipino colonial mentality that anything American must be correct, the equally gullible Aragoncillo and Aquino fell for the trap, too. Now you have an idea why the US intelligence reports on Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" were all false, most likely gathered by American "intelligence" agents from the camel camps of the Middle East.

* * *

Is lying a contagious disease? Judging from the way Malacañang zombies have been lying right and left, it would appear so.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales has been caught lying like crazy on the venal Venable LLP contract. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has been caught lying not once, not twice, but many times, the latest also about the Venable deal. Ditto for the other denizens of the snake pit called Malacañang. They're all afflicted with the disease. Guess who contaminated them.

When the Venable secret deal (so secret that not even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita knew about it) was discovered with Gonzales' signature on it, he prattled like a gangster in Alcatraz. When told that the P4.2 million monthly retainer fee for Venable was too much for a bankrupt Philippines, Gonzales replied that the money would come from "private donors." When asked who these donors were, he replied that only President Macapagal-Arroyo knew. When told that letting private donors and foreigners have a hand in amending our Constitution borders on treason, which is punishable by death, Gonzales announced that the Venable contract had been rescinded and that the three-month advance fee of P12.6 million would be refunded. When asked where the refund was, Gonzales replied that no money had been paid to Venable yet, and so there was nothing to refund.

If Gonzales had been strapped to a lie detector, it would have lighted up like a Christmas tree and all the buzzers and bells would have sounded off.

When the opposition demanded that GMA fire him, Gonzales threatened that if he is fired, he would expose venalities about the opposition, adding, "What I know about them, wow!"

Gonzales put his foot in his mouth again there. It is his duty as a public official to expose any venality he knows about, and not use that knowledge to prevent himself from being fired. Now he is liable for a charge of obstruction of justice.

More likely, the threat was not intended for the opposition but for GMA, a warning that if GMA fires him he would expose the wrongdoings he knows about her. In the first place, Gonzales would not have done what he did if he did not get his orders from the President herself.

As for the President, she knows that the Venable contract was full of venality and that the two of them are liable criminally, and so she ordered its rescission immediately.

But the cancellation of the contract and even the refund of the advance fee do not extinguish the crime. The crime has been committed and the criminals must face the music.

What this latest scandal shows is that it seems to be the policy of the GMA administration to go ahead with secret deals even if they are illegal and immoral. Whatever happened to transparency and public accountability? San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora says there are nine other similar secret contracts.

If only for this, we should all resist with all our might all attempts to change our Constitution. For the GMA administration has shown that it would do anything, even invite foreign meddling in our sovereignty, just to change the Constitution. They must all have a very strong and sinister reason for wanting to.

Now that the treasonous Venable contract has been unmasked, the administration, especially the House of Representatives, should stop all moves to change our Charter. Almost 80 percent of Filipinos, the constituents of the congressmen, have said in opinion polls that they want neither Charter change nor a shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government.

Congressmen, obey your masters!

Martial law

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL law, a fact that has taken on exceptional importance notwithstanding that it isn't the 25th or 50th but the 33rd. I know that because I've gotten a number of invitations from schools, media groups and NGOs to compare martial law and GMA's rule. That very formulation suggests people see a basis of comparison between the two. I doubt I was invited to show the contrast between them.

There is much ground for comparison. At the very least, both rules are based on an outright lie. Marcos lied about everything, including the date when he declared martial law. He did **not** declare martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, he did so on Sept. 23, 1972. Sept. 21 was a Thursday. Marcos declared martial law on midnight the following day, Friday, technically already the 23rd, Saturday. The reason for it being to prevent the activists and the opposition from taking to the streets or organizing anything to oppose it. Things grind to a halt in this country on weekends and Christmases.

Marcos subsequently antedated it to 21 because of one very interesting thing. He believed in the magical properties of 7 and its multiples, or at least that it brought him luck. Well, there is no arguing against history: He ruled for 14 years under martial law. Lucky for him, unlucky for the country.

GMA's rule is also based on a lie, or a series of lies. The first is that she deserved to replace Erap morally, if not legally. Unlike Cory who strode in the front lines in the fight against Marcos, GMA hid under the bed, to use the late Louie Beltran's famous phrase. The second is that she promised not to run, which needs no further comment. And the third is that she won the elections. "Hello, Garci" proves otherwise. That phrase, which encapsulates a whole constellation of meaning, will not go away; it will hang on GMA's head throughout her life, or rule. Which is probably one and the same: She can no longer live without power, a thing she shares with Marcos, or even surpasses him in, which bodes apocalypse for this country.

That, quite incidentally, makes her worse than Marcos. Marcos at least got voted into office twice, the first when he beat her father, Diosdado, and the second when he beat Serge Osmeña's father, Sergio Jr. Marcos was still president when he declared martial law, albeit one whose term was ending at the end of the following year and he was constitutionally barred from running again. The wonder of it, as I've said before, is that we've been brought to this living hell today by someone who was never elected president of this country.

Marcos had no right to rule after 1973. GMA had no right to rule—legally as well as morally—after May last year. Their rule was/is a lie.

For those who keep asking whether GMA can, or will, declare martial law, wonder no more. She **has** declared martial law, if unofficially, if a thinly veiled version of it. The bottom line there is: Martial law was a palace coup. GMA's continued existence is a palace coup.

Both rules were/are overwhelmingly unpopular. Their methods of enforcing their palace coups vary in some parts but are the same in others. Marcos used two things to prop up his rule. The first was naked force, in the form of the military. The second was law, or the kind of law based on its letter and not on its spirit. Indeed, the kind of law where the letter kills the spirit. Marcos himself was a lawyer and relied on legalism to give the most illegal, or illegitimate, act a veneer of justifiability. Marcos had the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary in his pocket. GMA has the executive, or what remains of her Cabinet, the House of Representatives if not the entire Congress, and the judiciary in her pocket. Marcos was the law unto himself, GMA is the law unto herself.

There is a precedent for the House killing the impeachment bill, which is the Con-Con approving Marcos' Constitution. Marcos reconvoked the Con-Con immediately after martial law (the pre-martial one had proven intractable) and its delegates promptly yielded to his wishes. The only difference is that Marcos relied more on the stick than on the carrot to make the Con-Con give him what he wanted. GMA relied more on the carrot than on the stick to make the House give her what she wanted. She just bought them all to hell. Or most of them, my thanks go to those who stood their ground, amid the swirl of greed around them.

Marcos' illegitimate rule (after martial law) was essentially mob rule hiding under the mask of legality. He and Imelda pretty much did as they pleased, backed up by a cabal of generals, cronies and petty bureaucrats drunk with power, but with the courts to clean up after them. GMA's illegitimate rule (after May 2004) is essentially mob rule hiding under the mask of legality. GMA and Jose Pidal pretty much do as they please, backed up by a cabal of generals, cronies and chimpanzees in striped suits, also called congressmen, drunk with power, but with the Firm to clean up after them. You now even have Pidal crowing that the way Pacquiao TKOed Velasquez was the way the House TKOed the impeachment bid. Like I said, drunk with power.

But the biggest similarity of all lies in the character of Marcos and GMA themselves. I recall something I wrote last year before the elections in reply to a pro-GMA voter who complained bitterly about my comparing GMA to Marcos. Surely, she said, I knew in my heart that wasn't true. Surely, I replied, I knew in my heart it was so. Today, surely, I know in every part of my anatomy it is absolutely so. We do not end this now, we will not see the end of GMA, not even after 2010.

We will also not see the end of decent Filipinos dying from sheer apoplexy.

Allure of toxic leaders

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, SJ
Institute on Church and Social Issues

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD LEADERS GONE?"

This question has haunted the country since the start of the crisis of credibility that has besieged the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. In survey after survey, people have opined that although they distrust the President, they see no alternative to her at this juncture. In a manner of speaking, some say it is a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea.

This curious predicament is the subject of Jean Lipman-Blumen's new book entitled, "The allure of toxic leaders: why we follow destructive bosses and corrupt politicians—and how we can survive them." Blumen, who has written books on leadership and was a special adviser to President Jimmy Carter, divides her book into two parts. The first part deals with why we tolerate "toxic" leaders and the second part tells us how we can liberate ourselves from this kind of leaders.

She starts by defining what she means by toxic leaders. These are "leaders who engage in numerous destructive behaviors and who exhibit certain dysfunctional personal characteristics," she says. "To count as toxic, these behaviors and qualities of character must inflict some reasonably serious and enduring harm on their followers and their organizations."

Many observers have pointed out how the Arroyo administration has emasculated our democratic institutions. Corruption, they say, has escalated in an unprecedented scale. All this therefore makes the government a toxic one by Blumen's standards.

Describing further the qualities of toxic leaders, Blumen provides a list which includes "playing to the basest fears and needs of followers, misleading followers through deliberate untruths and misdiagnoses of issues and problems, identifying scapegoats and inciting others to castigate them, improperly clinging to power, subverting those structures and processes of the system intended to generate truth, justice and excellence, and engaging in unethical, illegal and criminal acts." Reading the list, one would think one is reading the impeachment complaint against the President filed by the opposition last month.

But the real giveaway is when Blumen says that toxic leaders are "consciously feeding their followers illusions that enhance the leaders' power and impair the followers' capacity to act independently, including persuading the followers that they are the only one who can save them or the organization." Not only has this administration been obsessed with doing and redoing the President's image, even hiring professional PR outfits for the task, it has also peddled the highly arguable "truth" that she is the only one who can save this country, the only who can lead us to unparalleled economic development. (I have always believed that with the President hostaged from the start by political wheeling and dealing, it was her economic team led by Emma Boncodin that authored whatever economic gains we have achieved.) And yet the President's inner circle has capitalized on this image which has been accepted by not a few people as gospel truth.

This brings us to Blumen's main point: There are toxic leaders as there are gullible followers.

Why do we tolerate toxic leaders? What makes us vulnerable to the illusions and myths they weave? Blumen cites internal and external reasons. The internal ones are deep-seated psychological needs such as "our need for reassuring authority figures to fill our parents' shoes, our need for security and certainty, our need to feel chosen, our need for membership in the human community, our fear of isolation, and social death, our fear of personal powerlessness to challenge a bad leader." Because of the interaction of these needs, we would rather compromise our freedom and autonomy and tolerate abusive leaders whether in the family, in the workplace or in our communities.

There are also external factors that make us submit to erring leaders. These factors consist of the societal problems and crises that cause fear and anxiety in our lives. In a world of uncertainty and instability, we crave for a certainty and stability. "Constant change, seasoned with ambiguity, increases our vulnerability to toxic leaders," Blumen argues. "They promise to allay those fears and protect us: in the anxiety of such moments, we become only too willing to trade our fears for the sheltering 'security' of a strong leader, one with a clear ideology and explanation of the disturbing changes exploding around us, a leader who can bring meaning to our chaotic world."

Secondly, there are cultural factors such as society's achievement ethic. It is an unfinished world and leaders present themselves as the ones who can get the work done.

In all, both these internal and external factors conspire to make of us willing followers to toxic leaders. We are forever in search of saviors or even gods.

How then do we liberate ourselves from toxic leaders? Blumen suggests familiar solutions such as joining with others in confronting if not overthrowing the toxic leader. Institutional mechanisms also help such as "putting term limits, repairing the flawed process for selecting leaders, creating respectable departure options." But the long-term solution is realizing the "leader within" each one of us.

The traditional school teaches that leadership is a privilege, the birthright of a few. It's high time we understood it as a responsibility everyone must undertake, Blumen says. This new understanding widens the pool of would-be-leaders. Then we don't have to ask the question, "Where have all the good leaders gone?"

With this empowering message, Blumen ends her book the same way she opens it by quoting from Bertolt Brecht: "Unhappy the land that has no heroes. No, unhappy the land that is in need of heroes."

An endless debate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AFTER THE DECLARATION of martial law and 19 years after its final vestiges—namely the Marcoses, their cronies and the whole criminal gang—were supposed to have been swept away by history, we look around us and discover that not only are the Marcoses still very much around, but that we're still debating the same issues.

The legacy of Ferdinand Marcos is once more under scrutiny, what with the revived issue of his possible burial in Libingan ng mga Bayani. As a "war hero" and guerrilla leader, say his friends and family, Marcos deserves to be interred in the heroes' burial grounds. This, even if historians and critics say he faked his wartime record on which his medals were based, and may even have in fact collaborated with the Japanese. As a former president, add his boosters, he more than deserves a place alongside former presidents, dead soldiers and even national artists. But, counters the other camp, the human rights abuses and wholesale plunder that he presided over and even masterminded cancel out whatever honors the country owes him.

As authorities drew up plans for the celebration of the Centennial of Philippine independence in 1998, observers were astounded when it turned out that historians were still divided between the "Magdalo" and "Magdiwang" factions of the Katipunan, still preoccupied with assigning "blame" for the ultimate failure of the Revolution on Bonifacio or Aguinaldo. I won't be surprised (if I live that long) if by the time 2072 rolls around, the country will still be debating the merits of martial law, if Marcos did right by suspending civil rights and most legal protections on the excuse of turning back a Communist insurgency and creating a "New Society."

* * *

THAT strikes us—the generation that lived through martial law—as funny and even absurd. Our memories, fading as they are, remain sharp about how we felt on the day martial law was announced, the pervasive fear and apprehension that swept through campuses and streets, and the terror spawned by arbitrary arrests and summary executions.

To us, any recollection of martial law is as sharp as a black-and-white photo, the good and the bad outlined with clarity and precision. No wonder we are puzzled and not a little dismayed when later generations, including that of our children, seem to have dimmer and softer recollections, the acuteness blunted by time and second- and even third-hand sourcing.

Unfortunately, it is their generation, the generation of Filipinos who have only vague recollections of those years, who will be making the ultimate decisions regarding the Marcoses and the consequences of the martial law years. This is because our generation, whose legacy it was to fulfill the mandate of Edsa, took our sweet time resolving the many cases against the Marcoses and the cronies, from stolen wealth to human rights violations, contract murders to wholesale theft of public funds, and even the tacky renovations made on Malacañang.

The Marcos family and the cronies know only too well that time is on their side. The longer they delay resolution of the many lawsuits they face, the better their chances of walking away with the loot and—it galls me to say this—even the honor.

* * *

THAT'S why it's important to keep reminding the nation about what martial law was really about and what life was like for Filipinos in that time of absolute power and absolute corruption.

I remember an article on Imee Marcos entitled, "Imee's Endless Apology." And indeed, it does seem as if, no matter what she does, the Ilocos congresswoman could not do enough to let us forget her family history. But it's an endless apology only because she, her siblings and especially her mother, have so far refused to say "sorry" for those events of 33 years ago. They have not only refused to apologize, they have also so far failed to make amends, restitution or accept their proper punishment.

If Imee is tired of being held to account for the "sins" of her parents, then this generation of Filipinos is even wearier of having to keep stoking the bitterness and bile, because coming to a premature peace entails forgetting and forgiving, meaningless without proper penance on the Marcoses' part.

Which brings me to those who say it's time we achieved "closure" on the entire martial law episode. By "closure" they seem to mean capitulation, as if an honorable burial, the settling of stolen wealth lawsuits, the abandonment of human rights victims, would wipe our memories clean.

* * *

AND this is why we cannot now look upon the current scandal in our political life and say the nation's welfare depends on "moving on," cutting our losses and reasoning that there are many shades to truth and it is not important to know who really won in the last elections.

That's what decades of shading the truth about martial law has done to us: blurring the ethical distinctions that make it possible to tell right from wrong, truth from falsehood, honor from high crimes. If we now say that despite the surfacing of evidence of cheating in the polls, it is more important that Macapagal-Arroyo remain as our president for the sake of national stability, then we might as well say that all the lives destroyed by the Marcoses were worth it because Imelda built the Cultural Center, the Heart Center and other examples of her "edifice complex." We might as well bury with full honors the Marcos remains, and hand back Imelda's purloined jewelry.

We are still sifting the issues bequeathed to us by martial law. And we are doomed to an endless revisiting of those issues unless we learn the right lessons—including truth-finding and truth-telling—and teach them well to our children.

Bush's second gulf disaster

COMMENTARY

Terry Lynn Karl

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH HAS ASKED THAT Americans not "play politics" at this moment of terrible national disaster. But asking hard questions of our nation's leaders is exactly what democracy demands when the government's response to Hurricane Katrina is widely viewed as "a national disgrace."

Katrina came with at least two days' warning, but authorities waited to issue an evacuation order. There was no transportation for people without cars or money, facilities to house and care for refugees were insufficient, there were no forces in place to deliver desperately needed supplies or to secure order, and there was nowhere near the number of boats, helicopters, and other craft necessary to rescue the stranded.

Hampered by a National Guard with 40 percent of its people in Iraq, the pace of getting military personnel to the hardest hit areas was inordinately slow. For four days, there was simply no clear center of command and control. As a result, countless people suffered and died.

Much of this failure is the result of the Bush administration's policies, which effectively eroded the capacities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema), the government agency primarily responsible for dealing with disasters. Obsessed with the war on terror as well as an ideology of privatizing the functions of government, the administration systematically sapped Fema's long-term ability to prevent disaster or at least cushion the blows when prevention is not possible.

Fema was downsized and downgraded from a cabinet position, then placed under the Department of Homeland Security. Its mission of disaster planning and preparation was dropped entirely, and its focus was altered to fight terrorists. Its leadership had no experience in disaster management. The past director was one of Bush's Texas political cronies, and the current director's qualifications include a stint as commissioner for judges and stewards with the International Arabian Horse Association, where he was asked to resign for "supervision failures."

Since 2001, billions of dollars were shifted from disaster relief to homeland security and the war in Iraq. Key disaster mitigation programs were slashed and federal funding for post-disaster relief was cut in half. The Army Corps of Engineers' budget for levee construction in New Orleans was gutted, including funds specifically aimed at the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project. Preventive measures to protect people and property were not carried out despite Fema's own conclusion in 2001 that a major hurricane hitting New Orleans was one of the three "likeliest, most catastrophic disasters facing this country."

Believing Fema to be an "oversized entitlement program" and that the "business of government is not to provide services," Bush's first Fema director instituted new outsourcing requirements as part of a major privatization effort. This provoked a brain drain as experienced Fema personnel moved into the private sector

Privatization also left poorer states and poorer communities especially vulnerable. As money dried up and federal programs were contracted out to private firms at higher rates, only the richest and politically most important states and communities could compete successfully for the scarce federal grants necessary to pay for services.

For example, Florida (with 16 more electoral votes than Louisiana and where the president's brother governs) received its requested funding to protect its wetlands. By contrast, a more needy Louisiana (with its staggering 24-percent poverty rate) was denied its request for flood-mitigation funds in 2004. With Louisiana's ability to protect itself weakened and the center of disaster relief badly undermined, an inadequate government response and unnecessary destruction were almost inevitable—with the poor paying the price.

But the failure of the Bush administration runs deeper than its chronic and intentional diversion of resources away from the types of policies that keep people safe from disaster. Despite scientific evidence demonstrating that the increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes is related to climate change, the Bush administration systematically rejects participation in international climate-protection regimes. Rather than continue a ban on wetlands development instituted by previous administrations, the Bush administration overturned it. Because development-provoked erosion has brought the Gulf of Mexico 20 miles closer to land than it was in 1965, hurricanes are able to retain more strength, and their winds and waves pack more speed and destructive power.

Similarly, loss of wetlands threatened New Orleans' levees, which were built on the assumption that they would have 40 to 50 miles of protective swamp as buffer between the city and the Gulf of Mexico. Despite every major study showing that a massive coastal restoration program and higher levees were needed to protect New Orleans, the administration permitted federal agencies to stop protecting 20 million acres of wetlands, allowed developers to drain thousands of acres and in 2004 cut funding for holding back the waters of Lake Pontchartrain by more than 80 percent.

New Orleans is America's canary in the mineshaft. Ideologies of privatization that incapacitate effective government, permitting the privileged to save themselves while leaving the poor clinging to roofs, must now be challenged. This disaster is a chilling reminder of what happens when government fails to protect its citizens, and it is imperative that Americans demand accountability. Officials who did not do their jobs must be dismissed, and elected officials whose policies aggravated the devastation wrought by Katrina must be removed from office. We owe this to the dead and to the survivors. *(Project Syndicate)*

Terry Lynn Karl is professor of Political Science at Stanford University.

Ichthys

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I GOT MY FIRST COPY FROM A CATHOLIC SISTER. THERE was no name, just "Various Reports," a compilation of news and feature articles about the Philippines, produced by the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP).

It actually looked quite dull, page after page of text mimeographed on newsprint, without pictures or photographs. Yet I found myself looking forward to each new issue, packed with all the news that we couldn't find in the daily papers, radio or television.

It was the 1970s and we were under martial law. There was no cable TV then, or Internet, so Marcos' press censorship was fairly effective. Print and broadcast media mainly churned out press releases from government, dull but also infuriating with its fabrication and lying. We had the hallelujah press singing praises to Marcos' New Society, with rosy statistics showing a nation moving forward even as the public coffers were being plundered.

It was also a muzzled press, with a suppression of news that didn't fit into the image of the New Society. Among the news that couldn't quite make it into the papers, radio or television were corruption, "government" (read Marcos') expropriation of private companies, protest rallies, strikes and, of course, torture and salvaging.

Extra-legal

Media people generally toed the line, at least for the first few years of martial law. Looming over their heads was RA 1700, the Anti-Subversion Law, dating back to 1957, prescribing severe penalties for suspected communists. Not satisfied with that law, Marcos issued other decrees penalizing an assortment of "crimes," including rumor-mongering. In 1976, Marcos signed Presidential Decree 885, or the Revised Anti-Subversion Law, which expanded the definitions of subversive activities, including several that could be applied to mass media practitioners.

Despite these anti-subversion laws, there was an active underground press with newspaper names like Ang Bayan and Liberation. The papers were heavy on propaganda, often with fiery rhetoric around the theme of "exposing and opposing the US-Marcos dictatorship" and calling for armed revolt.

"Various Reports" belonged to a different genre, part of what was called an "extra-legal" struggle, neither legal nor illegal. There were a few school papers like UP's Philippine Collegian, which tried valiantly to keep people informed and critical but they were always in danger of being closed down.

The AMRSP tried to protect its weekly report, making it clear on the cover that it was intended "For Religious Use." On the inside cover page, an editorial box explained that the articles and reports were intended "for critical analysis and theological reflection of the religious and laymen we serve." That made the newsletter sort of legal, but technically, it could still be considered a subversive document.

Signs of the times

Each issue was about 30 pages long, including several reprinted news articles from banned foreign magazines, as well as dispatches from the Catholic Church's own nationwide network of contacts. To give you an example of what the newsletter carried, the July 3, 1976 issue of Signs of the Times had news on fasting political detainees, military brutality in Bukidnon and an article on the Marcos regime taking over the copra industry. Other issues had articles from prominent theologians, pastoral letters, reflection papers. People knew of Signs and Ichthys, writing the AMRSP about their grievances and appeals for assistance, especially around human rights violations.

The AMRSP newsletter went through several name changes. From "Various Reports" it became Signs of the Times, the name explained in an editorial box: "The various issues regarding our society of today are to be seen in the context of God's ongoing revelation, as signs of the times."

Signs of the Times later became Ichthys, from the Greek Iesous Christos Theou Huios Soter, or Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. It also means "fish," a symbol of the early underground Christian Church. A Tagalog edition of Ichthys eventually came out and was called, simply, Isda.

The AMRSP publications weren't political tracts disguised as religious documents. Their approach was simple: Here is the news that you didn't get to read, here are your options as you reflect on the morality of it all. I never found out how many copies were printed but they probably ran into at least a thousand, with a large multiplier effect. There were all kinds of distribution networks and after college, when I worked with the Catholic Church's social action groups, I'd find the newsletter out in the most remote of communities. Remember photocopying wasn't cheap then, so people had to just read and pass on their copies. Perhaps it was as well; without photocopying, people remembered the news in greater detail, and discussed what they read.

Irony

This year's commemoration of martial law reminds me of AMRSP's publications, eliciting a degree of sad nostalgia. In the 1970s, the Catholic bishops were, as today, quite cautious, opting for "critical collaboration" with martial law. But many religious and lay people, especially those working with communities, were quite critical. Many practiced a local version of Latin American liberation theology with its emphasis on reading the signs of the times and responding to issues of justice.

Alas, liberation theology declined, partly because Pope John Paul II cracked the whip on its theologians and seminaries, finding them too far on the left. In fairness, John Paul II did find it appropriate to speak out from time to time against the excesses of right-wing dictatorships such as that of Marcos. The current Pope is said to be much more unwilling to get involved in anything political.

The Anti-Subversion Law was repealed in 1992, so in principle, we have a free press, some even saying it's too free. Yet the never-ending streams of breaking and live news can be deceptive. The Philippines is now the world's most dangerous place for a mass media practitioner, given the number of journalists who have been killed. Meanwhile, the hallelujah press has become more sophisticated, repackaging doctored facts and figures from the government propaganda machine while suppressing the less savory news, from the machinations of the ruling party in Congress to the continuing arrests, disappearances and salvaging of political activists.

The irony is that under martial law, there was more critical moral guidance available from our religious leaders. It was a vibrant Church with AMRSP's weekly newsletter as well as other Catholic and Protestant publications that drew on the lived Christianity of the communities. It was a Church living up to the tradition of Ichthys, followers of Christ, the fisher of men with his vision of a just and moral world.

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Politics, morality cannot be divorced

THE JUST-CONCLUDED IMPEACHMENT proceedings against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo highlighted the assumption that this process is political and not moral—a numbers game, wherein the majority, right or wrong, prevails.

I submit that this "fragmented mindset"—wherein human activity in economics, politics, business, education, etc. is divorced from ethics, morals and values —has resulted precisely in our fragmented society today. It is the root cause of most of the problems of the human condition in general, and of our country in particular.

Business and economics without values and ethics result in poverty, alienation and human degradation. In fact, postmodern business and economic theory states that business and economic success rests more on complementation and cooperation, rather than on ruthless competition; and that the more moral and ethical one is in his or her business practice, the more successful he or she will become. The world's biggest and most successful companies have learned this—many of them, the hard way.

Education likewise is fast learning that true education is more of formation, rather than information; and that facts and technology are better learned and used if they are taught in the context of values and morality—in the seamless integration of technology and values. For in truth, education is what is left behind, after one has forgotten everything that he or she memorized in class.

The same is true with politics. Edsa I and II—against Marcos and Estrada—is really the result of the outpouring of moral outrage against two presidents who divorced politics from its moorings on morals and values. And the tangible taste of incompleteness and lack of closure in the PGMA impeachment case is again another example of politics bereft of morality. PGMA and her majority allies have to realize that they can only be successful politically if they practice politics within the context of morals and values.

For, indeed, there is only one "Reality," albeit with two dimensions—the interior and the exterior; or spirituality and economics; or moral values and politics; or ethics and business; or morals and praxis. And that any attempt to improve the human condition will have better chances of success if it involves the seamless integration of these two dimensions of one and the same Reality. We can only be reconciled as a nation if politics is practiced in the context of values and morality.

—SAMUEL J. YAP, 118 Granada,
San Antonio Heights,
Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Mike Velarde goes out of bounds

I WAS OUTRAGED BY THE MEDDLING of El Shaddai's Mike Velarde in purely political problems of the country. His proposal for the administration to form a coalition government with the opposition suggests a flagrant violation of the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State. And giving the opposition 60 percent of Cabinet positions (PDI, 8/23/05) will just open the Cabinet doors to partisan conflict.

It was a good thing that the Senate went against the coalition proposal of the El Shaddai leader. "The effort of Brother Mike is laudable but, unfortunately, the political divisions in the country are so deep that it is a useless exercise," (PDI, 8/24/05) said Senate President Franklin Drilon who is also the Liberal Party president. Drilon has joined the popular clamor demanding the resignation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Chiding the El Shaddai leader for meddling in a purely political crisis, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon remarked: "Mike Velarde should only concentrate on his spiritual functions and not meddle in political controversies."

Since the Filipino people are already tired and fed up with what is happening in the country, Ms Arroyo should either resign or stop moving heaven and earth to conceal the truth about the 2004 elections.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan, Daet,
Camarines Norte 4600

Pretense becomes delusion, cowardice

HAS MICHAEL TAN UNCOVERED A hardly recognizable timidity—or is it cowardice—among Filipinos in his "Happy Filipinos"? (PDI, 9/07/05)

That we were a happy people was true some decades ago, basically because we were lighthearted and so easy to please. But that was then. Today, we are "happy" merely as a front to cover up the fact that we can't tell our leaders straight that we are not happy with the way they conduct themselves. We are afraid to show our true feelings of disgust in our leaders, perhaps because our religion taught us to be long-suffering and patient. Indeed, we have learned to act like the movie actors we idolize: we hate to disappoint the crowd, because they think we are a happy lot. The urge is to amuse everybody else even at our own expense.

We should have discarded the delusion a long time ago if only to prevent it from becoming a destructive urge known as cowardice. But our leaders have taken advantage of it for their own selfish ends. And now it is time we taught ourselves the value of being in touch with our own feelings and being honest enough to express them. Otherwise, we will surely suffer the consequences of bottled up resentments eventually exploding in violence.

The problem is that dishonesty in leadership disgusts us but we force ourselves to smile, hoping someone will save us from it. Do our leaders recognize the signs? Apparently not, because they continue to interpret the situation according to their own selfish preferences instead of in the light of truth.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
Las Piñas City,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

Tiglao clutching at statistical straws

SECRETARY RIGOBERTO TIGLAO CORRECTLY said that the economy is important in understanding the political storm surrounding President Macapagal-Arroyo. (PDI, 8/22/05) Let us look at the indicators that really matter.

Despite the so-called economic growth, unemployment has been rising—from 11.1 percent in 2001 to 11.8 percent last year—a fact obscured by methodological sleight-of-hand when the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) adopted in April 2005 a more stringent definition of unemployment. In other words, by administrative fiat, a considerable number of jobless Filipinos ceased to be considered part of the labor force and so weren't considered unemployed.

On the other hand, the number of underemployed (those with jobs but still seeking additional work) drastically increased from 18.5 percent last year to 26.1 percent in April 2005, the highest in almost two decades, and the 8.4 million number of underemployed is a near-record high.

That more Filipinos are struggling to eke out a living or are putting up with whatever jobs is not surprising. Falling inflation rates since the mid-1990s reversed under the Arroyo administration; prices have been rising with increasing rapidity in the last three and a half years—to over 8 percent in the first half of 2005 from a whole-year average of 6 percent in 2004.

Accelerating inflation has pushed the daily cost of living for a family of six ever higher, up to P629.10 in the National Capital Region and an average for the whole Philippines of P517.60. The implied daily cost of living per person is far higher than the absurdly low poverty line of P33.60 per person per day, which Tiglao claimed that poverty incidence has gone down to 24.7 percent in 2003. By more decent standards, at least 80 percent of the population must be considered poor.

The rising joblessness and falling real incomes increase pressure on publicly provided services. Unfortunately, real spending on social services—i.e. taking inflation into account has been drastically falling under the Arroyo administration. Comparing the period 2001-2004 with the four years before it, real spending on education has fallen by 3.2 percent; on health, by a large 24.5 percent; and on housing, by a severe 61 percent. The impact is worse if population growth is factored in.

Social services have been increasingly crowded out by debt servicing in the national government (NG) budget. Interest payments on debt have steadily increased as a share of the NG budget from 24.5 percent in 2001 to a projected 33.2 percent in 2005. This budget "de-prioritization" of social services hits the poor, or those most dependent on publicly provided social services, the worst.

Tiglao's glowing commentary on the supposed strength of the economy under Ms Arroyo is therefore an exercise at clutching at statistical straws that few are likely to believe.

—SONNY AFRICA, senior researcher, IBON
Foundation Inc., Old Sta. Mesa, Manila

Eyesore in Makati

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE ATTENTION of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay regarding the proliferation of sidewalk vendors on both sides of Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue, particularly from Mayapis Street to Ayala Avenue.

Aside from being an eyesore and a nuisance to passersby, these vendors are practically competing for space with the pedestrians and obstructing their flow.

Makati, as the financial hub of the Philippines, should be a picture of orderliness, cleanliness and progress, and not the other way around.

Mayor Binay should relocate the vendors elsewhere so as not to deprive them of their livelihood. Makati should never emulate Manila where sidewalk vendors are the "lords" of the streets.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR.,
6737 Taylo St., Makati City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Medical check-up to be done by SSS doctors

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Maximino Balabbo complaining about the purported SSS policy that requires pensioners to undergo medical check-up. (PDI, 9/01/05)

The letter asked who will shoulder the expenses for this annual medical check-up. Under the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (Acop) program, the medical check-up will be administered by an SSS doctor. Pensioners will not spend anything on this.

The Acop program, which was started early last year, is part of the reforms intended to ensure that pensioners get the right benefits; it is also meant to enable SSS to recover the money erroneously sent to those who have died, remarried or recovered from their disabilities.

If a pensioner is unable to go to an SSS branch for check-up, he or she can request for a home visit by an SSS representative. A pensioner can also communicate with the SSS by responding to its letters, or by sending a certification that he or she is alive and eligible to receive pension. The certification may be issued by a regular SSS employee who has been working with the SSS for at least five years, or by a teller in the bank where he or she has an account, or even by the postman or barangay chair.

We wish to point out that SSS employees do not receive dividends from the fund as Balabbo alleged.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Here's GOOD NEWS!
to all Employers, Self-employed & Voluntary members

RS-5
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- Iriga
- Laoag
- Lapu-Lapu
- Legaspi
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- Ozamis
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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER

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InqBox Question of the Week

September 21 Martial Law anniversary:
Do you agree that Ferdinand Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt! U

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S. Mindanao jeep fare up for 2nd time in year

DAVAO CITY—JEEPNEY FARE IN SOUTHERN MINdanao rose for the second time this year as pump prices of petroleum products continue to soar.

The increase came after jeepney operators in the region joined the nationwide transport strike, which sought the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law and the expanded Value Added Tax.

They also urged the government to immediately impose a moratorium on oil price increases and roll back prices.

In the new PUJ matrix released by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) 11 on Sept. 15, the regular rate for the first four kilometers increased by P.50 from the previous P6.50.

The succeeding kilometer is now charged P1.25.

Students and senior citizens still get 20 percent discounts.

Drivers interviewed by the INQUIRER here said that the new fare schedule was justified because they could no longer bear the fuel price increase.

As of yesterday, diesel sells here at P32.25 per liter while unleaded gasoline costs P35.13 per liter. Premium gasoline sells for P35.55 per liter.

Petroleum dealers in the city said the price could still go up in the next few days, particularly when the E-VAT is already implemented.

About two weeks ago, bus operators got a relief from increasing fuel prices after the LTFRB granted the petition of the Southern Mindanao Bus Operators Association (SMBOA) for a fare increase.

PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Eagle rescued in Albay

JUST CALL ME BORNOK!

TABACO CITY—A Philippine eagle, an endangered bird species, was caught by a resident of Barangay Salvacion here on Saturday and was turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday. Rumerico Butial said he found the shivering eagle at a river bank at about 4 p.m. Butial said he immediately placed the bird inside a cage and gave it a piece of chicken and banana to eat. He also reported the find to the Tabaco City Agriculture's Office. City veterinarian Dr. Rene Rocha reported the incident to the DENR after he examined the eagle's health. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Pancit' downs family of 5

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A family of five ended in a hospital here on Sunday evening after eating spoiled *pancit bihon*. The victims were identified as couple Baltazar and Marites Kilat and their three daughters aged 8, 4 and 1. Marites told reporters that they had *pancit bihon* for dinner. A few minutes after eating, she said they started vomiting and suffering severe stomachache. Doctors confirmed the family suffered food poisoning. The family was declared out of danger and was allowed to go home on Tuesday. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

3 die in jeepney mishap

COTABATO CITY—Three persons were killed when an overloaded jeepney flipped over in Upi, Maguindanao on Saturday. Several other passengers were hurt in the accident. Survivors, who were rushed to the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here, said the driver lost control of the wheel when the vehicle's brakes malfunctioned. They said the driver was trying to avoid hitting another vehicle. Upi Mayor Ramon Piang said Maita Ricardo, Leonasil Dalasabas and Empoy Coritano, all residents of Upi, were pinned to death. ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Extortionists warn of bombs

WALANG KINATATAKUTAMN!

COTABATO CITY—Suspected extortionists have threatened to carry out bomb attacks in Parang, Maguindanao if their demand for P4-million in protection money is not given to them. Parang Mayor Talib Abo said a certain Ruben Glam Abo handed him the demand letter from the extortionists, who call themselves "*walang kinatatakutan* (fearless)," threatening that his town will be bombed if he and vice mayor Adnan Biruar refused to give P2 million each. Abo said the driver told him that the letter was handed to him by an unidentified man. "I called and talked to the letter sender because he gave his mobile phone number in the letter. He instructed me not to inform anybody, even the police, about our conversation. And according to him, if we will not give in to their demand, they will bomb our municipality," Abo said. In January last year, dozens of people were killed and more than 50 others were injured when a bomb exploded at the town gym. ***Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Market, warehouse razed in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Two separate fires hit Quezon province on Sunday, destroying more than P30 million worth of property. The entire public market in Lopez was razed early dawn Sunday. Lopez Mayor Fiden Salumbides said the local government would declare a state of calamity after the fire destroyed about P30 million, based on the initial report of the fire department. Lopez police chief Supt. Edwin Capanzana said the fire started at around 3:30 a.m. at the dry goods section of the market. He said the market's main power switch was not immediately put off, causing the quick spread of the fire. The fire was placed under control three hours later. In the afternoon, another fire burned a two-story warehouse of the Lucena Mabuhay Lumber and Hardware, the biggest in this city. Senior Fire Officer I Jonathan Malundas, Lucena fire station arson investigator, said the fire started at about 4:15 p.m. and was controlled two hours later. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

3 gang members slain

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three alleged members of a dreaded robbery syndicate were killed in a gunfight with police along the Marcos Highway in Barangay Inarawan, Antipolo City shortly after victimizing a taxi driver early Saturday. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said the slain suspects, Pablito Parado, 31, of Leyte; Rogelio Garcia, 46, of Tacloban; and Ronald Entereso, 32, of Antipolo City belonged to a gang victimizing taxi and jeepney drivers in Marikina City and nearby Rizal towns. He said moments before the encounter, taxi driver Elmor Revolledo, 41, appeared at the Antipolo police station and sought help after three unidentified men held him up. The victim said he picked up the suspects near the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in nearby Marikina City. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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2 feared dead in landslide in Aurora town

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Government soldiers and volunteers resumed on Tuesday the search for the bodies of two persons believed to have died from a landslide in Dipaculao, Aurora, on Sunday.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) in Aurora also mobilized additional earth-moving equipment to sift through the mounds of mud, rocks and logs at Sitio Dinapindingan, Barangay Dinadiawan in Dipaculao, in the hope of finding Arceli Gallego, 56, and Reynaldo Valenzuela, 45, police reports said.

Help to the two victims came late as their neighbors scampered for safety while the village's men did not have shovels to dig through the debris, according to a resident interviewed by mobile phone.

The couple, Francisco and Marina Villanueva and their children Mary Grace, 8, and Edmar, two months old, were plucked out alive and airlifted by Philippine Air Force personnel to a hospital in Cabanatuan City for treatment.

[illegible] were brought back to [illegible], the capital town of Aurora, [illegible] Monday, said Senior Supt. Te[illegible]ro Saclolo, provincial police chief.

At least 200 Casiguran-bound passengers remained stranded in Baler since Saturday. The Department of Public Works and Highways continued to clear 93 landslide-hit sections between the villages of Diamed and Dinadiawan, Saclolo said.

The PDCC reported feeding the passengers since Sunday.

Electricity, cut off since Wednesday, resumed on Sunday night.

The Kamatis-Villa section of Bongabon (Nueva Ecija)-Baler road remained impassable as of Tuesday. Landslides in November and December last year washed out the Villa Bridge and damaged several portions of the concrete, winding road there.

Baler can be reached through the Canili-Pantabangan route in Nueva Ecija, the DPWH said.

Landslides also occurred in Barangay Umiray, Dingalan but members of the Dumagat tribe earlier moved to safer grounds, text messages from leaders of the Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Umiray said.

At least 400 passengers were stranded in two major ports in Bicol while seven municipalities in the province of Camarines Sur and four villages in the province of Albay were flooded due to continuous rains since Friday, according to the Office of Civil Defense Bicol regional office.

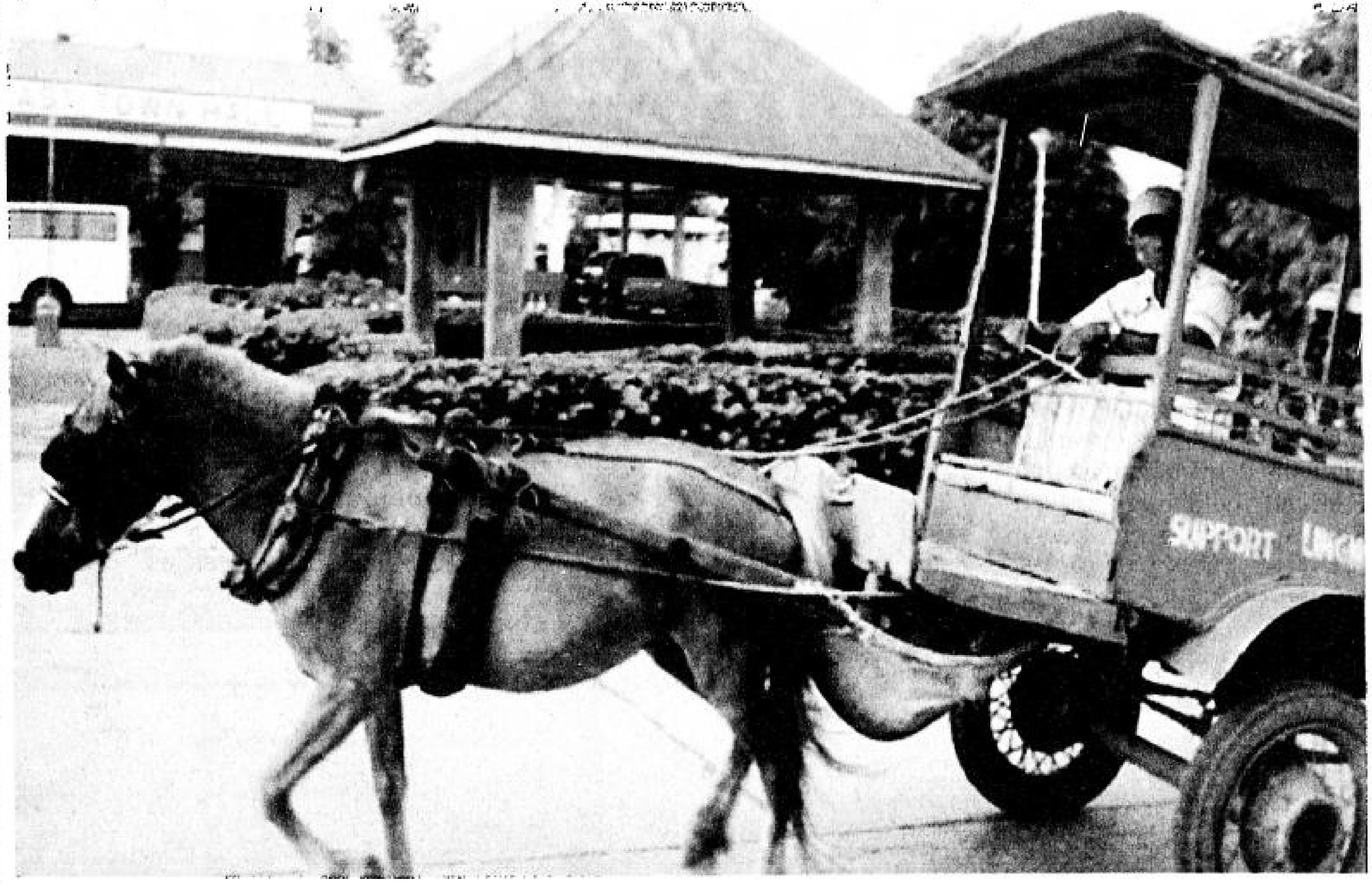
One casualty had been reported so far.

Arnel Capili, OCD regional director, identified the victim as 10-year-old Jemerio Reonal Jr. of Oas, Albay, who drowned in the Kinale River in Polangui.

In Tabaco Port alone, 320 passengers were stranded while 80 were stranded in Legazpi.

Among the flooded areas were Oas town in Albay, and the municipalities of Nabua, Bato, Milaor, Minalabac, Buhi, Gainza, and Baao in Camarines Sur.

Capili said that in Albay, at least five families had been evacuated. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BEATING THE CRISIS
In this crisis of high fuel prices, going back to the basics like using horse-drawn haulers, is a practical thing to do like this farmer does in Naruangan, Tuao, Cagayan.

Calabarzon police say highway rob gang busted

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The police's Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Calabarzon on Monday said it dismantled a gang of highway robbers and hijackers in the region with the arrest of the group's alleged leader and three members in separate operations in Quezon and Cavite.

Supt. Apolinar Felipe, TMG Calabarzon director, said the arrest of suspected hijackers Joel Perlas and Russel Reyes in Cavite yesterday ended "the reign of terror" of the Mejas Group, which police said was a notorious criminal gang victimizing trucking companies in Laguna, Cavite and Batangas.

Felipe said Perlas was arrested in a house in Barangay Sampaloc, Dasmariñas while Reyes was apprehended in his rented house in Barangay F. Reyes in General Mariano Alvarez town at around 10 a.m.

Recovered from the two were 20 boxes of floor tiles, believed to be part of the P500,000 worth of tiles that the suspects took from a truck in Silang, Cavite on Sept. 1.

The arrests, Felipe said, came following the arrest of Ernesto Mejas, the group's supposed leader, and Bayani Flores in a TMG raid on the group's hideout in Barangay San Isidro, Catanauan, Quezon last Wednesday.

Felipe said Mejas was one of the 10 most wanted highway robbers in Calabarzon.

He said the suspect was one of the core members of the Abelende car theft syndicate before he bolted and formed his own gang.

He said the suspect was initially arrested for using a vehicle without a license plate and illegal possession of firearms.

Some of the group's victims, however, later identified Mejas as the same person using the name Erning Morales.

"With the arrest of Mejas and his three men, we expect the hijacking and highway robbery in Calabarzon to drastically decline in the next few months," Felipe told reporters at a news briefing.

Felipe said that aside from highway robbery, the group is also into gun-for-hire activities.

He said Mejas was also behind the hijacking of a truck with P1 million worth of steel bars in Barangay Makiling, Calamba City in July this year.

The group, he added, also took a 10-wheel truck containing steel bars worth P1.5 million in Sto. Tomas, Batangas last year.

Felipe asked businessmen and trucking companies who might have been victimized by the group to help police pin the suspects down. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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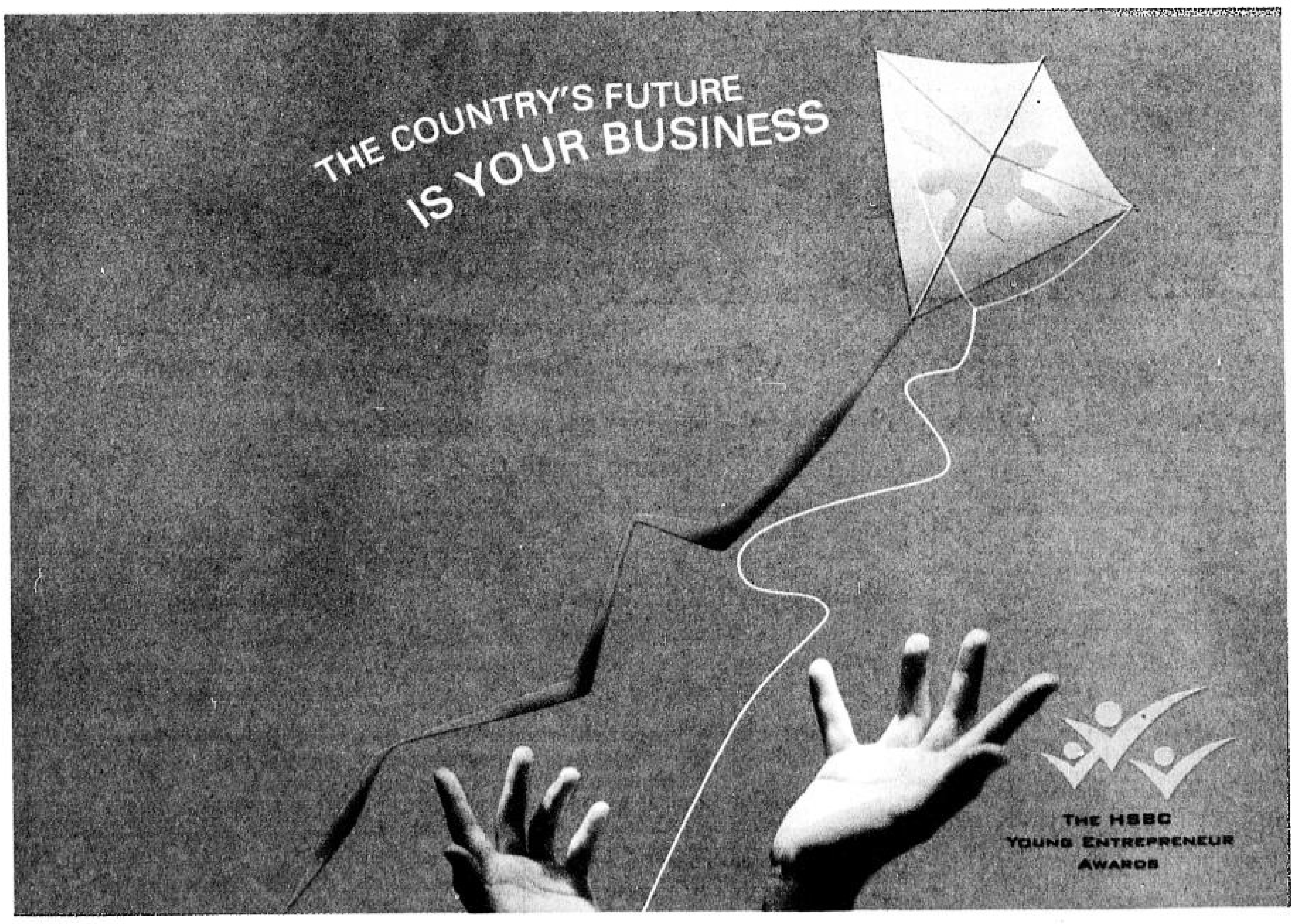
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Giant Pampanga lanterns go mini

ENORMITY IS THE RULE in Pampanga's lantern industry. No piece made it to the world-renown annual Ligligan Parul (Giant Lantern Festival), held in the City of San Fernando every December, if it was not huge—5.48 to 6.09 meters (18 to 20 feet) in diameter and illumined by 4,000 to 7,000 light bulbs.

A MINIATURE version of the famous giant lantern of Pampanga is on display at the Holy Angel University's Center of Kapampangan Studies. TONETTE OREJAS

Roland Quiambao, one of the few lantern-makers around, broke the tradition of hugeness for the first time. For a good reason, of course.

His latest creation, .91 meter (3 feet) in diameter and which may be hailed the smallest in its league, was made to give tourists a sight and feel of the real thing.

It has been on permanent exhibit since Aug. 1 at the Holy Angel University's Center of Kapampangan Studies, which commissioned the 50-year-old craftsman from Barangay Del Pilar to do the miniature replica.

"When tourists visit Pampanga after December, they are disappointed when they fail to find even one of the famous giant lanterns of San Fernando," Dr. Robby Tantingco, the center's director, said when asked why the project with Quiambao sprang.

That's because during off-season months, the giant creations are disassembled a few days after the festival.

Displaying, and even storing, them year-round is a problem because of their sizes, Tantingco said.

"So the rest of the year, the skeletons of giant lanterns stay in backyards waiting for their reincarnation in the next Christmas season," he added.

Miniature version

The miniature version, Quiambao said, conscientiously has stuck to the other features that make Pampanga lanterns unique.

For one, it follows the traditional star pattern that old craftsmen learned from bygone times and passed on to Quiambao's generation. It has a *tambor* (the center of the lantern), a *sikusiku* (the main star), a *palimbun* (highlights around the star) and *pontetas* (the edges that encircle the piece).

Not only is it fitted with 200 bulbs. It comes with a rotor, an electricity-powered cylinder that gives the lights a dancing effect.

That contraption, Tantingco noted, is what tourists are raving about.

"They cannot imagine how a scrappy barrel with masking tape and hairpins can produce the amazing technicolor dancing lights of the giant lantern," he said.

"Only in the Philippines" is the label that Quiambao, out of humor, gives that ingenious invention.

Tantingco said that while the small commercial lanterns use electronic winker, the giant lanterns "use this traditional, folksy improvisation, which shows how creative Kapampangans are."

Tonette Orejas

Preserving the 'kalesa'

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

THIRTY OF THE 146 remaining *kalesa* (horse-drawn carriages) in the 251-year-old Pampanga capital of San Fernando were spruced up by 120 artists last week as part of continuing efforts to preserve the erstwhile "king of the road" in the city.

In one of four tents in front of City Hall, *kutsero* (driver) Bienvenido Maneje keenly watched as Allen Moran, a second year industrial education student at the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trade in Bacolor town, painted images of working people on his carriage's *pilar* (rear).

Moran's three teammates worked on the *karang* (roof), the *uelia* (set of wood slabs forming the wheel) and the *tapalodu* (shield against the rain).

For a theme, they picked industriousness to highlight the Kapampangans' love for work.

"It's going to be beautiful afterwards," Maneje, 63, said before leaving to feed his horse at a friend's barn. His horse's name is "Abe," Kapampangan term for a friend.

The team of Agatha Lamera, a fourth year high school student at the East Central Colleges, drew images approximating the theme cleanliness and environment.

In February, artists from at least 10 schools painted 21 *kalesa*, the first batch to undergo restoration.

Amid the busy workshop area, Virgilio Roxas, president of the San Fernando Kalesa Drivers Association, said he was thankful that the city government was helping his group.

YOUNG artists from various schools in Pampanga spruce up the few remaining "kalesa" in the City of San Fernando, where the city government is working to preserve the Spanish colonial carts. TONETTE OREJAS

"You know why there are a few *kalesa* now? We're edged out by the competition from jeepneys, tricycles and "three-wheelers" (bicycle-drawn carts)," said Roxas, 60, who comes from a family of *kutsero*.

Oblivion

But the *karetela* (cart), he said, was the first to be buried in oblivion.

Able to sit as many as six people, the *karetela* was what his father Lupo, now 87, first drove before World War II in Arayat town.

Lupo then moved to San Fernando where *kalesa* teemed.

"In the olden days, he said he took passengers to as far as Tarlac, Pangasinan and Manila," Roxas said of his father's job.

He said for short routes, *kalesa* was the main mode of transportation when the San Fernando town proper, host of the Manila-Pangasinan train station, served as the transportation hub in Central Luzon.

Roxas said the *kalesa* has survived the times and disasters because "people like riding in them."

Bygone times

"You always get a comfortable ride in a *kalesa*. It also reminds you of bygone times," he said.

Bacolor used to have lots of these Spanish colonial carts until the 1995 volcanic mudflows or *lahar* from Mt. Pinatubo buried the town. Guagua, one of the oldest towns in Pampanga, had many *kalesa* until these were eased out by tricycles.

Aside from San Fernando, the only other place where *kalesa* rides are available is Angeles City.

Roxas said about 100 *kalesa* are plying routes in Angeles.

While the *kutsero* do not buy gasoline, operating a *kalesa* is also costly and this is one of the reasons many have left the trade, Maneje said.

Their horses feed on *darak* (rice bran), *pulot* (native honey), *barit*, *muta* and *grama* (grasses). These cost P70 daily. Each of the four steel shoes now costs P50. These shoes are replaced on a weekly basis.

To be able to ply the streets on a 24-hour basis so one can earn more than P300 a day, several drivers maintain at least two horses, worth between P10,000 and P20,000 each, Roxas said.

"A horse can only go as far as you can take care of it," Maneje said.

Mayor Oscar Rodriguez has banned tricycles and "three-wheelers" from plying the city's main district of Sto. Rosario to Palawe to preserve the *kalesa* as a cultural heritage.

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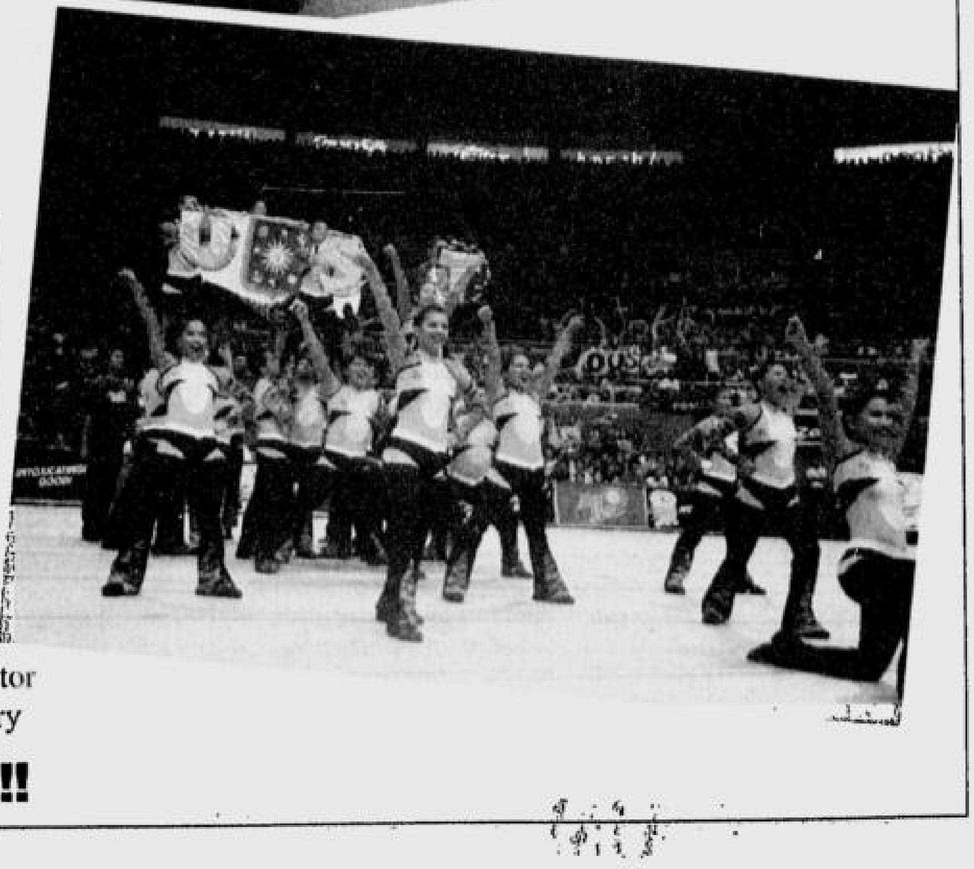


US: RP worse off under Noli de Castro

From page A1

ment to the US agents regarding an "imbalance" in trade relations between the Philippines and the United States: "We're your Number One ally, and our President is your Number One fan [yet other countries seem to be] getting more."

The INQUIRER yesterday obtained copies of the report and several other US Embassy reports from a source who requested anonymity.

The reports showed the US government's interest in political developments in the Philippines, including the possibility of former President Joseph Estrada unifying the opposition to effectively remove Ms Arroyo from Malacañang.

The documents containing the US Embassy's assessment of political figures and developments in the Philippines could be among those supposedly downloaded by Filipino-American analyst Leandro Aragoncillo from FBI files and sent to opposition leaders in the country.

THE "SPY" who played the affable host, US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli welcomes President Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro on July 4 for the Independence Day celebration at the US Embassy. PDI PHOTO

Not much knowledge

Part of the five-page July 16 report said: "There is no indication De Castro has much knowledge or interest in foreign policy issues. We asked about US-RP military cooperation, to which he replied that he supported the global war against terrorism.

"On Iraq, however, he said he didn't understand 'what was behind it.' He then turned to his real interest in Iraq: jobs for Filipino workers."

The US agents spoke with De Castro after six members of Ms Arroyo's Cabinet and four key officials resigned and urged her to do the same.

The officials who later came to be known as the "Hyatt 10" announced their resignation on July 8, a day that also saw Senate President Franklin Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino calling on Ms Arroyo to step down.

The Mussomeli report was filed on July 16.

Circumstantial evidence

While De Castro seemed to have failed to impress the Americans, he supposedly came up with a surprise statement regarding Ms Arroyo and the 2004 presidential election.

"De Castro told us he believed there was circumstantial evidence of PGMA's involvement in the alleged election fraud scandal, but he would not comment on the possible role of his Senate colleague, Sen. Franklin Drilon, on the 'failed Cabinet coup,'" the report said. *(See De Castro's comment on Page A1.)*

"President GMA's destabilization woes, he feared, are not over as the opposition 'cannot accept her,'" it said.

The report pictured De Castro as an inept replacement for Ms Arroyo.

"We asked about his legislative priorities and waited patiently as he searched for words. His chief of staff, Jesse Andres, broke the silence, noting that De Castro identif[ied] his policy interest as anything that would benefit the masses (especially for the TV-watching, vote-rich masses), and he supports programs to promote investment by 'balikbayans'," the report said.

US courted for support

It added: "We inquired about the biography of [former New York City Mayor] Rudy Giuliani sitting atop a small stack of books on De Castro's desk and he said that it was a gift and he hadn't read it."

The July 16 report confirmed that the US government was being "courted" for support by both the administration and the opposition as the Arroyo administration faced its worst political crisis.

"Despite being courted by both sides (opposition and administration), we consistently, repeatedly stress the key importance of the rule of law and respect for the Constitution in this fragile democracy," the report said.

"We also stressed, privately, it is significant that Arroyo's constitutional successor take the general legal principle of the Philippine Constitution, 'The welfare of the people is the supreme law,' a very subjective principle and offers real guidance for transition in the presidency," it said.

The report also mentioned the US government's views on the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

"[Ms Arroyo's] oath-taking administered by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and circumstances surrounding Estrada's departure would remain a questionable precedent," it said.

Erap in better position

The report said that while he was often viewed as a "political destabilizer," Estrada had remained on top "by applying increasing pressure" on Ms Arroyo and her administration.

Despite criticisms of Estrada's own capability regarding administration and policy matters, the report suggested that the deposed leader was now in a better position to take over the presidency than De Castro.

"Estrada probably understands the dynamics behind the opposition's move to oust Arroyo better than most of the opposition leaders because similar factors—particularly widespread dissatisfaction and confluence of interests among the business elite and upper classes—were the reasons behind his downfall," the report said.

But it said that while Estrada was "a viable opposition figure, he has yet to emerge and coalesce around other opposition leaders to become effective and play a key role in mobilizing the population against Arroyo."

It also noted that Estrada "still has the support of the masses, according to embassy officials."

No 'viable leader'

The report said that despite the scandals rocking the administration, the opposition had yet to find a galvanizing force: "Six weeks after [Ms Arroyo's] most severe political crisis began, the growing but deeply fragmented forces arrayed against her are still scrambling for a 'viable leader.'"

It said the emergence of Susan Roces, widow of the movie idol and 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., in the "political fray" was not sufficient to "influence much of [the] FPJ/Erap factor during their rally at the central district of Makati."

The report said "more Filipinos" were realizing that the Estrada administration would have been "a better option for them."

GMA 'biggest problem'

The report quoted a "senior-level US government official" as saying that "history will not treat Arroyo's presidency as a particularly good one for the Philippines."

"As time ticked out for her administration, it was clear the biggest problem was Arroyo herself, a 58-year-old, US-educated economist," it said.

Quoting "most observers," the report said Ms Arroyo had "always exhibited paranoia and the need to control every aspect of the Philippine economy and politics."

"After her alleged fraudulent May 2004 presidential win and lingering illegitimate constitutional ascendancy to the presidency in 2001, she appears to have stepped up efforts to ensure loyalty and increase personal control over the military and local government officials," it said.

"However," it said, "credible poll surveys conducted recently showed that the population is aware of recent events."

It added: "One of the poll surveys said that 72 percent of the respondents claimed that they distrust Arroyo. The other survey also showed that 58 percent wanted her to resign and 85 percent maintained that she cheated in the 2004 presidential election."

Noli: I don't even remember his face

From page A1

that? It was just his own assessment of things here that are not bound to happen."

De Castro said he was surprised that Mussomeli had prepared such a report for the US government, and professed unease about the latter's statements.

He said the President had not asked him about the report, and expressed confidence that she would just ignore it.

He admitted, however, that certain quarters had been trying to convince him to turn against Ms Arroyo. He said he had refused their overtures.

De Castro reiterated his commitment to keep his partnership with the President strong and stable, to enable her to pursue her propoor agenda.

He said a reporter had tried to show him a copy of the Mussomeli report for his comment but that he had declined to read it.

"Even if I read it, what's the big deal?" he said. "The poor will remain poor, so I'll just focus my attention on other serious matters."

Casual encounters

De Castro said that he had met Mussomeli only three times, and that these were "casual encounters."

Their first meeting, he said, was on April 9 during the commemoration of Bataan Day, where he invited the US official and the Japanese ambassador to Manila to ride with him in a helicopter that was to take him to Bataan.

He said their second meeting was on July 4 during the celebration of Philippine-American Friendship Day, where other government officials led by Ms Arroyo were also present.

The last meeting was at an event in Intramuros, Manila, where Sen. Richard Gordon hosted a tourism program, De Castro said.

He said he and Mussomeli exchanged "hi's" and "hello's" when they saw each other.

Mussomeli was then winding up his work as charge d'affaires, De Castro said. Mussomeli is now ambassador to Cambodia.

"In all these occasions, I have never spoken with Mussomeli beyond the usual exchange of pleasantries," he stressed.

No protest

Despite the negative publicity that the report had generated, De Castro said he would not encourage the Department of Foreign Affairs to file a diplomatic protest.

"This is the same Mussomeli who said that Mindanao will be the next Afghanistan of Asia. I think there is no need to pay serious attention to what he is saying," the Vice President said.

Mussomeli had also reportedly told Washington that two groups in the military were plotting a coup to topple Ms Arroyo even before the worst political crisis of her administration broke out in June.

Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, immediately denied it.

Analyst says Palace feeling US pressure

From page A1

profile, but subtle pressure" from Washington for the administration "to resolve the conflict in a manner acceptable to the country," Robles said.

"The US was in effect saying that the impeachment is the correct solution, and not through the technical method, which is highly unacceptable and provocative to the potential destabilizers of the government," Robles said, referring to charges that pro-Arroyo lawmakers railroaded the impeachment complaints.

"The elephant is still outside the window. It won't go away. The elephant of lying and cheating is in the way. You have to explain it."

Deployment in Clark

Iñiguez, the bishop of Caloocan, spoke of his fears about a coup in reaction to reports that a 30-member special police force was deployed on Saturday to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga amid rumors of a coup attempt.

The deployment was made on the eve of Ms Arroyo's return from a six-day trip to New York where she attended the 60th UN anniversary. No untoward incident was reported, however. Officials later said the troop movement was to preempt possible sabotage or an airport takeover.

Iñiguez said the quashing of the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives on Sept. 6 was forcing opposition elements to resort to "ultra-legal" means to find the truth about allegations that she stole last year's election—a charge the President has persistently denied.

"We really don't want any violence so in one way or another, we must find the truth to bring back the credibility of government," the bishop said.

"It's the administration that is suffering," he said in Filipino. "Its credibility might continue to be eroded."

Iñiguez echoed the statement released by the CBCP's permanent council last week. The council urged the faithful to continue the search for truth while addressing the worsening problem of poverty.

"It is also the duty of every citizen to look for the truth," said Iñiguez, a member of the 12-man council that speaks and acts for the country's 119 prelates outside of the CBCP's biannual plenary.

PNP shrugs off coup rumors

But Lomibao shrugged off the coup talk.

IÑIGUEZ ERIK ARAZAS

"Coup rumors will always be there as long as there are people, unmindful of the country's well-being, who are willing to spread them," the PNP chief said.

But the government is "stable," he said.

"It is as stable as before because institutions of stability—the military, police, church, other strategic groups such as LGU (local government units), business and industry continue to support the present setup," he said.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson, said the fact that Lomibao and five of his top men left Manila for Germany was "an indication that they're confident that the coup rumors are nothing more than that."

"They're disinformation, and we are not bothered," Bataoil said. He also said that the PNP had maintained a "normal alert" status since Ms Arroyo's arrival.

Rigoberto Tiglao, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, had brushed aside the weekend rumors as a "figment of someone's imagination."

Biazon blasts Bunye

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON criticized Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye for deriding retired military generals who had called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"Calling these old warriors senile, crippled and effectively useless will not gain friends for Malacañang but probably even produce more enemies among the retired soldiers and those in the active service who will be joining the ranks of the retirees one day," he said.

"It looks like Bunye is testing the manhood of these old warriors," he said.

Biazon also cautioned Malacañang against gloating over the dismissal of the impeachment complaints, noting that a recent survey showed that 51 percent of the Filipinos favored "extra-constitutional means" to remove the President.

"The President should not forget this," Biazon said.

Angara on reconciliation offer: Present specific program of action

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

OPPOSITION SEN. EDGARDO Angara says he does not want to fight with the administration forever but would first like to see President Macapagal-Arroyo go beyond rhetoric and offer concrete proposals on cooperation if she is really serious about her calls for national reconciliation.

"They have to work on the details and not merely talk about it. It cannot just be rhetorical," Angara said in a phone interview yesterday. "What is their plan, their unity agenda? There must be something concrete, a specific program of action; in what areas can we work together?"

In the wake of calls for her resignation and an opposition attempt to impeach her, Ms Arroyo has been renewing calls for reconciliation with her political foes, even getting a boost from El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde who had met with detained former President Joseph Estrada, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Panfilo Lacson and proposed some form of power sharing.

Angara, head of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said it was not enough to allocate certain slots for the opposition in the Cabinet, as proposed by Velarde. The charismatic Christian leader had said the President was willing to give up to 40 percent of Cabinet positions to the opposition.

"That's only one aspect, but after that, what do they do? What is the agenda?," Angara said, adding that the government and the opposition leaders should have a specific program for reviving confidence among investors and the public at large.

Though he sounded reconciliatory toward the President, Angara denied he had gone over to Ms Arroyo's camp in spite of the appointment of certain Cabinet officials identified with him. He said he was not leaving the Senate minority but would keep an independent stance and would support administration measures consistent with his advocacies.

"We cannot continue fighting endlessly," he said.

Angara said Filipinos in Spain, where he had just come from, were asking why people were still marching in the streets even after the impeachment case had been dismissed.

With the House's dismissal of the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, it was time to move on, Angara said. Contrary to the position of his son, Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, one of the opposition "young guns" in the House who spearheaded the impeachment, the senator said he was of the belief that it was time to set aside the charges against Ms Arroyo because the process had been observed.

"They have a chance to revive it after one year anyway," he added.

US exec warns of bird flu pandemic

PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES ARE bracing for an economically devastating bird flu pandemic by researching the disease and strengthening their capabilities to deal with problems that could follow, a senior United States official said yesterday.

Michael Michalak, the US representative to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, said the 21 members of Apec plan to unveil an action plan outlining strategies to battle avian flu, which he described as the "next possible disaster," during their annual summit in South Korea in November.

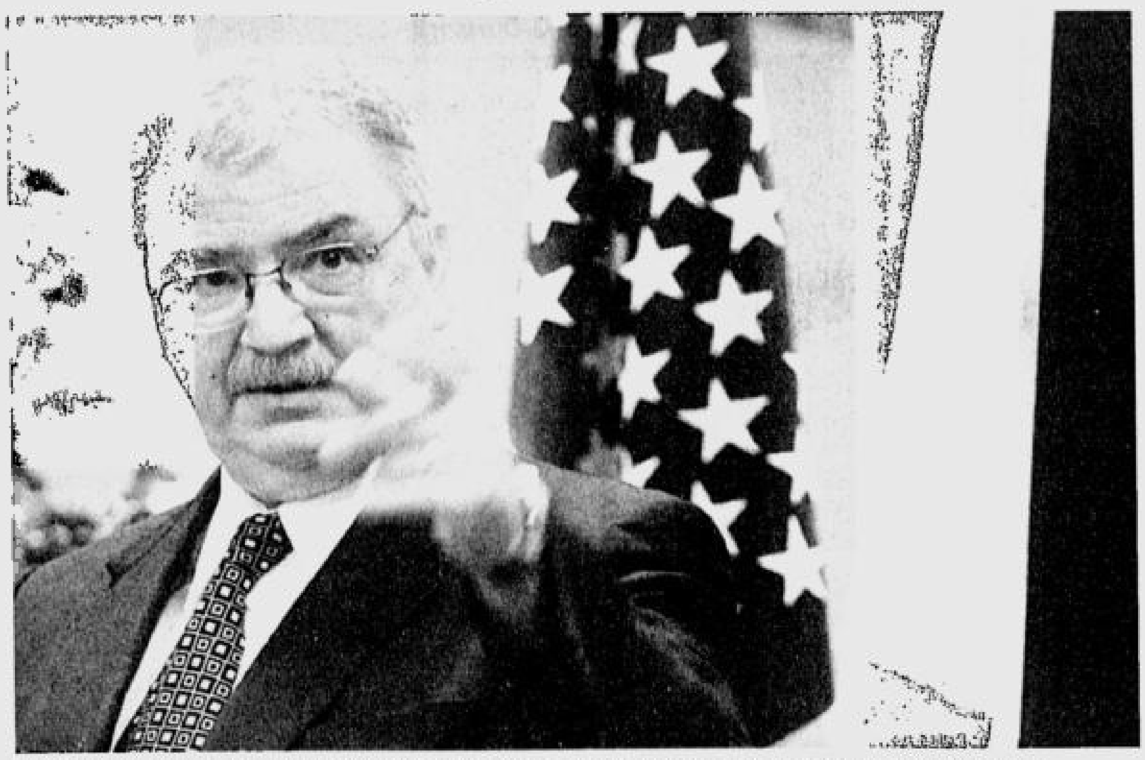
Bird flu has ravaged poultry populations in large swathes of Asia since 2003, leaving 63 people dead—mostly in Vietnam and Thailand—and resulting in the deaths of tens of millions of birds.

If a pandemic develops, governments could severely restrict the movement of people and goods—actions that would batter the airline, travel and other related industries, Michalak said.

"It's very scary," he told a news conference at the US Embassy yesterday. Michalak is on a two-day visit here to meet several Philippine officials ahead of the Apec summit.

"The economic effect could be very severe. The concrete action that we would take probably will be along the lines of disaster preparedness," he said.

Apec was likely to issue a strong statement and action plan calling on member countries to undertake research and strengthen capabilities to prepare their economies "to better face this potential pandemic," Michalak said.



HEALTH CONCERNS. Michael Michalak, US envoy to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, declares during a press conference at the US Embassy that his government is pushing for the adoption of an action plan against avian flu during the annual leaders summit of the Apec forum in November in Busan, South Korea. REM ZAMORA

Washington has set aside $25 million to help Apec countries affected by bird flu, he said.

Michalak said there could be significant economic and social impact by the threatened avian flu pandemic.

"After 9/11, factories throughout the United States were shut down two days after our borders were closed because they could not get the input that they needed in order to keep functioning. We would see the chances of border closures being rather high in the case of avian influenza," he said.

Michalak said the Apec action plan would include early detection, prevention and remediation.

"Early detection is going to depend on all the economies involved being transparent and open to the medical team… There has to be a spirit of cooperation among the donor countries and the affected countries and international organizations to determine how best to transmit the kind of assistance that would be needed during this kind of need," Michalak said.

During his meetings with government officials, politicians and business leaders Michalak discussed the Philippines' progress in the fight against piracy and corruption.

He praised the government for its "very good" international property rights (IPR) laws, and noted that "the attention now is turning into implementation."

He also said the Philippines was taking a "step forward" in fighting corruption with the "reinvigoration of the Ombudsman's role."

Despite Washington's concern over bird flu and issues such as terrorism, corruption and protection of intellectual property rights, its main focus would still be on ways to promote progress in the current round of WTO treaty talks—launched in Doha, Qatar in 2001—which aim to slash subsidies, tariffs and other barriers to global commerce, Michalak said.

Apec was launched in 1989 to boost trade among its members, with the ultimate aim of establishing a free trade area by 2020. In recent years it has expanded its scope to include discussions of issues such as corruption, combating terrorism and other issues that could hamper trade.

Geographically diverse Apec includes global heavyweights like the United States, Japan, Canada and China as well as other significant economies such as Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and South Korea. Representing a total population of about 2.8 billion, Apec accounts for nearly half of global trade.

Apec also includes Australia, Brunei, Chile, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

South Korea is hosting the Apec summit on Nov. 18 to 19 in the southern port city of Busan. *AP and Nikko Dizon*

Yes, 'Big Brother' is watching RP events 'very closely'

From page A1

analyses that ultimately determined how their reports were to be classified in terms of confidentiality.

Either secret or laughable

"It's the analysis that gives it the classification—whether it is top secret, secret, confidential, restricted, or laughable," Asuque said.

To stress that analyses could vary, Asuque said Mussomeli's analysis of the political turmoil was "right, that [the coup] won't happen," while MacLearn's analysis was "cautious."

Lussenhop also refused to comment on the forthcoming hearing in the United States of the espionage charges filed against intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo and former Philippine National Police official Michael Ray Aquino.

"Anything further about the case of Mr. Aquino or Mr. Aragoncillo, that will come from the US Department of Justice ... The embassy is a separate part of the federal government," he said.

Anti-GMA forces rally today; parts of Ayala, Paseo closed

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Stretches of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas will be closed to traffic starting at 10 a.m. to give way to the rally of Bukluran Para sa Katotohan (Coalition for the Truth) this afternoon, the Makati City Hall announced yesterday. *(See traffic rerouting map on Page A22.)*

Makati's mayor, Jejomar Binay, is the chair of the United Opposition, one of the groups belonging to Bukluran.

E-VAT rally

To coincide with the anti-Arroyo mobilization in Makati, militant labor groups will hold a nationwide rally to protest the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it would take part in the protests.

"Remembering martial law is timely since we are again confronted with the suppression of truth and justice by a regime that refuses to heed the people's cry for its removal," Bayan chair Carol Araullo said in a statement.

"Marcos suppressed truth and justice with the declaration of martial law. Ms Arroyo seems to be doing the same although employing different means," she said.

Allies of Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives succeeded in quashing an impeachment complaint filed by the opposition, which alleged she committed fraud to win the 2004 presidential election.

The street protests by the President's foes have so far failed to harness the broad social support and huge numbers that analysts say were the key to the successful "people power" revolts in 1986 and 2001.

1-M signatures

Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) said the nationally coordinated protest action would be the take-off point of its campaign to collect one million signatures rejecting the VAT law.

PM said the rally would begin at 3 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. in at least seven areas in Metro Manila and nine other key cities and provinces.

Some of the meeting points in Metro Manila are Mabuhay Rotonda, SM Fairview, Monumento Circle and Cubao. Protesters will also assemble in Cavite, Laguna, Quezon province, and the cities of Bacolod, Cebu, Talisay, Tacloban, Iligan and Davao.

Heightened alert

In anticipation of the protests, the 115,000-strong Philippine National Police was placed on heightened alert status starting 6 p.m. yesterday.

Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said the NCRPO would be fielding up to 2,000 antiriot personnel at Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City, at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, and in Makati.

An Army spokesperson, Capt. Ramon Zagala, said the military had put about 200 soldiers on standby to reinforce police.

Maximum Tolerance

Southern Police District Director Wilfredo Garcia said some 200 police personnel would be deployed in Makati for the rally.

Querol told reporters that police teams had also been sent to guard shopping malls, transport terminals, the airport, big hotels, power, water and communication installations and oil depots near the presidential palace.

"Like the previous protest actions, we hope this one will end peacefully," he said, adding commanders of antiriot units have been instructed to maintain "maximum tolerance."

Maximum tolerance means the police will allow people to demonstrate against the government even without a rally permit, as long as the demonstration is "peaceful" and would not "hamper the movement of people and vehicles."

Protesters get permit

Lito Anzures, spokesperson of Mayor Binay, said Bukluran, a convergence of all sectors calling for Ms Arroyo's ouster, had obtained a permit from City Hall to hold the rally in the Central Business District (CBD) from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

An expected 40,000 protesters and opposition leaders from militant groups, the academe, civil society, business, the Church, and the political opposition would begin converging at around 1 p.m. at the intersection, near the Ninoy Aquino Monument. The program is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

Querol doubted whether the organizers could muster 40,000 people.

Based on a traffic plan prepared by the Makati Department of Public Services, both lanes of Ayala Avenue will be closed to vehicles, from the intersection at Makati Avenue to Rufino Street (formerly Herrera).

Paseo de Roxas, which is perpendicular to Ayala, will be closed off from its intersection at De la Rosa Street to Sedeno Street.

Anzures said the early closure was accommodated as rally organizers would set up a stage in the morning at the Paseo de Roxas-Ayala Avenue intersection.

Rerouting

With major CBD intersections closed until the evening, City Hall advised motorists to take alternate routes. Manila-bound buses coming from Quezon City may take a right to Ayala Avenue from Edsa, right to Makati Avenue, then left to Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) to their destination.

Northward buses coming from Manila and southern Metro Manila may skip CBD and take Gil Puyat Avenue toward Edsa.

Robin Hood in reverse

Private vehicles from Manila bound for Ayala may go straight through Gil Puyat Avenue, right to Edsa, then right to Ayala Avenue, which will remain open from Edsa to Makati Avenue. Those coming from Edsa may take Gil Puyat toward Makati Avenue or Paseo de Roxas.

At a press conference in Quezon City, officers of PM said they would block the Bicutan and Malinta Interchange.

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo said the VAT law was "Robin Hood in reverse," as it was an instrument for taking from the poor money that will be given to the rich.

"VAT proceeds will not provide roofs over the heads of the homeless or medicine for the bodies of the sick, but merely fill the pockets of local and foreign creditors, who are nothing but modern-day usurers," he said. *With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy, Reuters and AFP*

Miriam tells Ping, et al.: Go to US and face the music

From page A1

ANC, Santiago said that if she herself were charged in a US court, "I will voluntarily go there to explain myself. I wouldn't wait to be compelled by an extradition court ... to go there."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested and filed espionage charges against ex-Philippine National Police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo in connection with an alleged theft of confidential FBI files dealing with the Philippines.

The FBI also claimed the pair passed on confidential information to two current national level officials and a former national official in the Philippines.

The US government has not identified the three supposed recipients or indicated if it would seek their extradition.

Former President Joseph Estrada, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson and Jinggoy Estrada as well as Rep. Roilo Golez have admitted either receiving e-mail messages from Aquino or knowing Aragoncillo.

A lot of questions

But the political figures have all denied they were involved in any espionage activity or had received any confidential information from Aquino.

Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said the three unnamed former and active officials whom the FBI had referred to could be criminally charged as principals or accessories.

ESTRADA

PIMENTEL

LACSON

SANTIAGO

But she stressed that this depended on their actual participation, adding that if they merely received e-mail messages, whether they liked it or not, they had no liability.

"The question here is were they principals by inducement? In other words, were they equally guilty because they were the ones who provided the money and motivation and were going to use the classified information?" Santiago said.

"There are a lot of questions involved here," she said. "For example, if it turns out that two senators are involved…will the Senate acquiesce to their extradition since we are a legislative branch equal and separate from the executive branch."

Investigation urged

"Should we place an extradition treaty above domestic law?"

Santiago has called for a Senate probe into the possible links of Filipino officials to the issue.

The senator said the RP-US extradition treaty provided that their nationals could be extradited for offenses punishable in both countries, such as espionage.

The exception is when a person is charged with a crime considered to be a political offense, she said.

"A political offense is widely defined as one which is ideologically motivated," she added. "So it could be a common crime but for as long as there is an ideological motivation, the person should not be extradited because we are trying to protect freedom of conscience ... we are protecting human rights."

Senators should explain

"In this case, I don't think any of these implicated national level officials can possibly claim they were ideologically motivated in receiving classified information and paying for it through the alleged Filipino spies."

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the senators at the receiving end of Aquino's messages were bound to explain their side.

He said espionage was a much more serious offense than the charges of making illegal campaign contributions that led to the extradition of former Rep. Mark Jimenez.

This is because espionage has a terrorism component, he said.

Counter-advice to Miriam

"The one essential point is this is not a light matter, especially to a government which is besieged by a terror threat," Angara said.

He said the Senate cannot prevent any request for extradition of a member implicated in such an offense.

Lacson questioned the propriety of Santiago's call for an investigation.

"It's improper for a senator to issue a subpoena to a fellow senator or even a congressman," Lacson said.

Golez advised Santiago to be more circumspect in her statements, noting that her advice might apply to her own brother, former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

Miriam's brother, too

The Parañaque lawmaker said Santiago's brother might be a member of Plebes and Cavaliers, an e-mail group of Philippine Military Academy alumni which Aquino sent e-mail to.

Golez's counteradvice to Santiago was she should focus on investigating the FBI's "spying" activities in the country.

Worthy of Tolkien

Said Golez: "She should address the FBI espionage here and not act like someone responsible to a colonial master."

Pimentel dismissed Santiago's suggestion as fantastic.

"That's a suggestion worthy of Tolkien, author of the Lord of the Rings. In the first place, who are the senators? Are they charged with any offense?" Pimentel said.

"No comment," Senator Estrada said. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

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Kidnapped trader tags brother-cops

By Margaux C. Ortiz

STRIKE TWO.

Two brother-policemen have again been implicated with two other companions in the abduction of a Chinese businessman earlier this month, following their involvement in the kidnap for ransom case of another Chinese-Filipino in August.

Operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday raided the house of PO2 Clifford de Guzman at 53 Linao St., Quezon City, for his alleged involvement in the Sept. 1 kidnap of Henry Sia of Fugoso St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

NBI Special Action Unit head Vicente de Guzman III said they were able to seize the Toyota Lucida van (RAM 479) used in abducting Sia, a .9 mm Beretta pistol and a hand grenade from the policeman's house.

Detailed at NCRPO

PO2 De Guzman, assigned to the Regional Headquarters Support Group of the National Capital Region, was not present during the raid.

"We are now coordinating with the Philippine National Police to arrange for (PO2 De Guzman's) surrender because he is still in active service," NBI Deputy Director Nestor Mantaring said in a press conference.

Sia identified PO2 De Guzman and his brother PO2 Jeffrey de Guzman through pictures obtained from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Jeffrey, assigned at the Manila Police District Anti-Illegal Drugs Division, was arrested by MPD operatives last Sept. 3 in connection with the August kidnapping of businessman John Y. Chua of Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

De Guzman said Sia had sought the NBI's help last Sept. 6, five days after he was abducted by the suspects near his home.

Sia, who wore a surgical mask during the press conference, recalled the suspects blocking his Pajero at about 2 p.m., forcing him to alight from the vehicle.

"They introduced themselves as policemen but they could not show me any identification cards or order to arrest me," Sia, who was engaged in the selling of imported cars, said.

The suspects forced Sia into the Toyota van, blindfolded him, and brought him to PO2 De Guzman's house on Linao St., Quezon City.

"(Sia) however saw the vehicle's plate number and the route the suspects took because he was able to see through the blindfold," De Guzman III said.

The suspects then contacted the victim's family and initially demanded P5 million. They later agreed to a P200,000 ransom.

The kidnappers received the payoff from Sia's nephew on Sept. 2 inside a fast food restaurant in Banaue, Quezon City. Sia was released without his Pajero on Blumentritt St. in Quezon City the same day.

Armed with a search warrant, NBI agents then raided Clifford's house after a two-week surveillance.

PO2 De Guzman's live-in partner Marissa Villanueva told the NBI that the suspect rarely visited her.

The NBI's De Guzman said they were conducting follow up investigations to identify the two other suspects and look into Villanueva's possible involvement in the case.

Mantaring said they would be filing charges of kidnapping for ransom, illegal possession of firearms and car theft against the suspects.

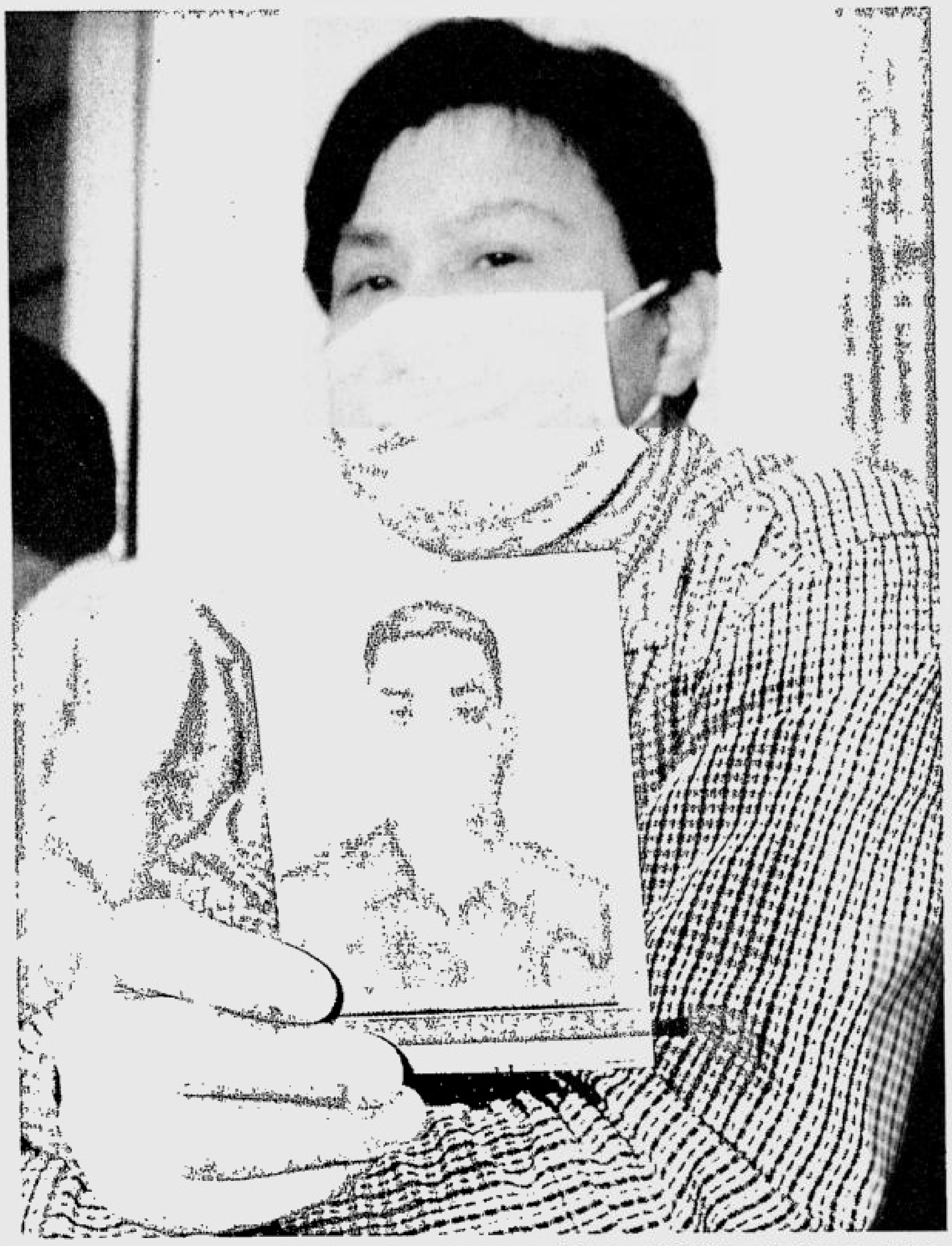
PNP support

Police officials said yesterday that they fully backed the NBI's efforts to track down PO2 De Guzman.

In a statement, acting police chief Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon said the Police Anti-Crime Emergency and Response and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group will "extend utmost cooperation and support to the NBI in pursuing this and accounting for all the suspects."

Calderon has also instructed the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management to determine the administrative liability of the two cops.

"We will not condone nor tolerate the wrongdoings of our personnel," Calderon said in a text message to the INQUIRER.



KIDNAP victim Henry Sia holds a photo of one of his alleged abductors, PO2 Clifford De Guzman, during a press conference at the NBI Headquarters in Manila. Sia was kidnapped last Sept. 1, 2005 and was subsequently released by his captors upon paying P200, 000 in ransom. REM ZAMORA

Former policeman collared for drugs

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HIS GUN GAVE HIM AWAY.

Police yesterday arrested a former Mandaluyong City policeman for brandishing an unlicensed rifle in a crowded community the other night.

But when he was hauled to the Mandaluyong City Police, investigators and police officials said they found sachets of suspected shabu inside his maroon Nissan Cefiro.

Mandaluyong City police chief Supt. Ericson Velasquez identified the suspect as former PO1 Ladgemy Pelos, 34.

He said Pelos had stopped reporting for work when he was charged with robbery, extortion and car theft in August 2004.

Because of his absences, Pelos was dismissed from the service, Velasquez added.

Police received a call from an informant at about 7:30 p.m. Monday about a man displaying a rifle while on board a car in Welfare Compound, Barangay Addition Hills.

Special Welfare and Tactics operatives rushed to the area and recognized Pelos who, aside from the rifle he was holding in his right hand, also had a .45-caliber handgun tucked in his waist.

Velasquez said Pelos, who did not resist arrest, failed to show documents for his guns.

Drug paraphernalia and P80,000 cash were also found inside the former policeman's car.

Dennis Roldan awaiting his release on bail

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and DJ Yap

FACING KIDNAP-FOR-RANSOM charges, actor and former Quezon City Rep. Dennis Roldan is praying he will soon be granted bail.

"We pray that (our application for bail) will be granted," he told reporters at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court yesterday morning.

But Roldan, currently detained at the Pasig City Jail, will probably have to wait long to know whether or not his "prayer" will be answered.

The prosecution presented two witnesses yesterday as the kidnap-for-ransom charges against Roldan, his alleged girlfriend Suzette Wang and five others entered trial proper.

The first witness was the nanny who was with the boy when he was kidnapped on his way to school.

In her affidavit, which she confirmed yesterday, the nanny identified accused Adrian Domingo and Noel San Andres as among those who snatched the boy in February.

She also identified Alberto Pagdanganan as one of the kidnappers but Pagdanganan already turned state witness, testifying against Roldan.

The prosecution will be presenting 10 more witnesses before the court could decide on Roldan's application for bail, which the defense filed even before the trial began.

The crime is nonbailable but his lawyers argue the prosecution has not enough evidence against Roldan.

The next hearing was scheduled for Oct. 4.

Roldan, Wang and the five others are accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in February. At one point, they allegedly asked for P250 million in ransom.

Wang remains at large.

In Quezon City, Channie Tan Son's decision to take to confront his kidnappers paid off.

Six years after a group of men abducted Son, a Chinese national, and released in exchange for P2.6 million, eight of his captors have been meted the death penalty. They were also ordered to pay P50,000 to Son "jointly and severally."

Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 sentenced Son's kidnappers yesterday, after finding them guilty of abducting him on July 14, 1999.

They were Jaime Moog, Primo Arena, Felicimo Laygo, Edgar Alvarez, Almario Abrasaldo, Rufo Astero, Dominador Torano and Manolito Sandoval.

Juanito Moreno, one of the accused, however, was acquitted after the court found sufficient reason to doubt his guilt.

Son was not present when the sentence was handed down, but Sandra Coronel, the private prosecutor, said Son was "very happy" about the decision.

"It took a lot of courage on his part to testify against his kidnappers. (The decision) allays his fears (about reprisal). It was all worth it," she told the INQUIRER.

In a 20-page decision, Yadao gave greater credence to Son's accounts about his ordeal, his positive identification of the accused, as well as his description of their roles in the crime, than the alibis of the accused.

HERE COMES CHRISTMAS

A giant Christmas tree made of recycled mayonnaise bottles lights up to "officially welcome" Christmas in the Philippines. At the foreground is a diorama of a traditional Philippine town during Christmas. Looking on is artist Robert Alejandro. Lady's Choice, a mayonnaise brand, recently launched the first nationwide Intertown/city Christmas landmark contest dubbed "Christmasterpiece: Bayanihang Pasko 2005." The contest is open to all towns and cities.

'Lay off those fences'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LEAVE THOSE FENCES ALONE.

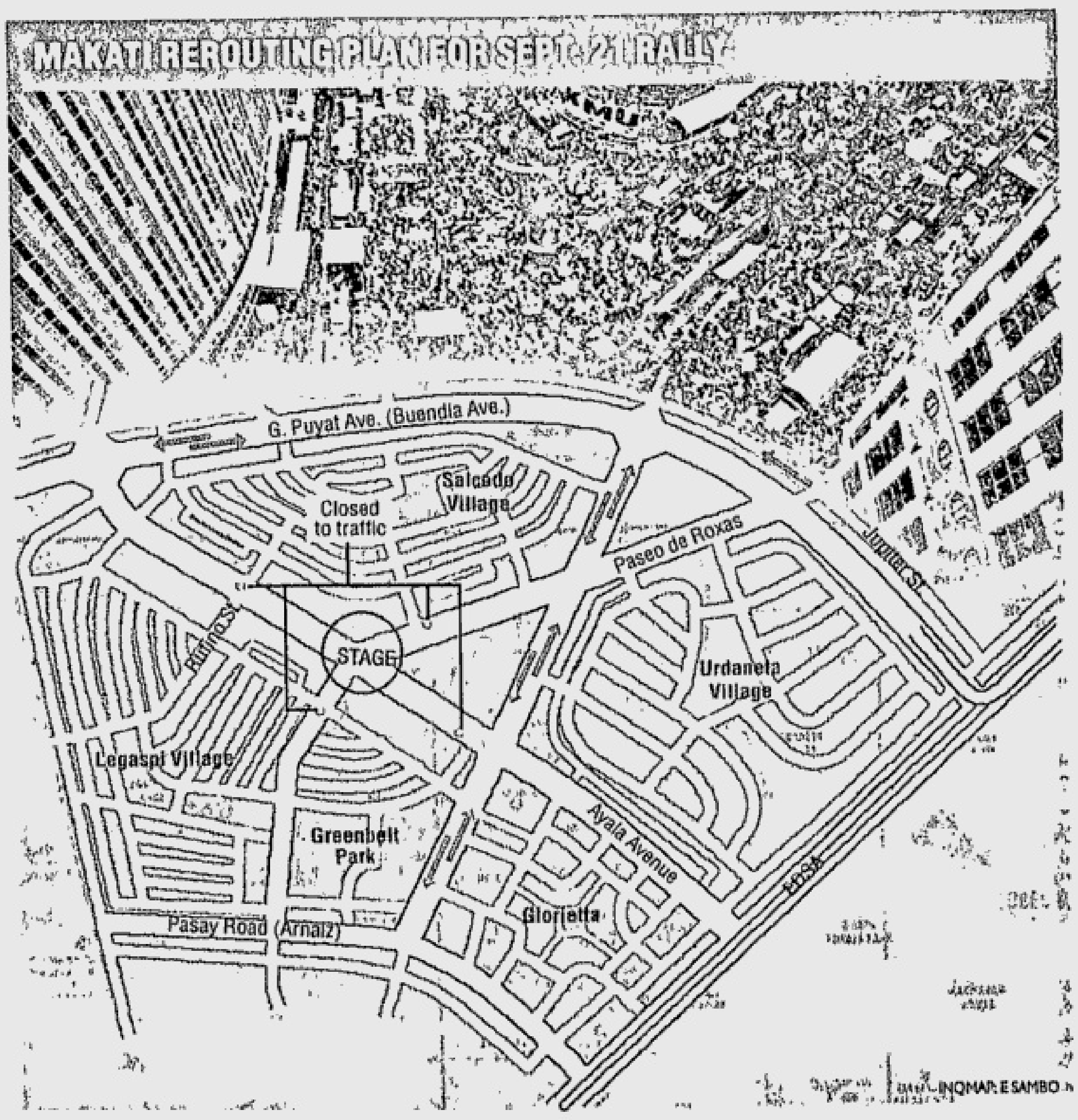
That was the message of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) when it filed charges against three men who were caught destroying pink fences on a center island on Edsa, just to get across.

"In behalf of the MMDA, the TEG (Traffic Enforcement Group) will stand as the complainant and charge them with destruction of government property," said TEG Group director Senior Supt. Philmore Balmaceda.

He was referring to Jason Teves, 22; Jesus Reyes, 23; and Rolando dela Cruz, 32, who were reportedly caught pulling down pink fences near Nia Road in Quezon City.

Balmaceda said the three may also be held liable for malicious mischief, and made to pay for the destroyed fences.

The three were apprehended at about 8:30 p.m. Monday.



Edsa bus route plan in full swing

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) has begun studying the average daily commuter pattern along Edsa, as the agency reached the homestretch of preparations for the full implementation of its bus dispatch system.

Aiming to launch its Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme soon, the MMDA has started a survey of commuter volume on different parts of Edsa at given times of the day to establish a schedule for the OBR's controlled dispatch.

"We have started a passenger count along Edsa for us to determine the number of passengers and their destinations. That will guide us in determining how many buses to field in one location at a given time of the day," said Mon Santiago, head of the MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System (MRRES).

Commuter pattern

Santiago, in an interview yesterday, said MMDA traffic monitoring teams from the Traffic Engineering Center of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center began observing commuter presence on Edsa two weeks ago.

Results of the field observation will be collated to determine commuter patterns at loading points along Edsa, for the MMDA to know when to dispatch buses to which destinations once the OBR was implemented.

The dispatch schedule would serve as a key component of the OBR, since the scheme aims to maximize passenger loading for buses by controlling their trips based on commuter volume at pick-up points at a given times of the day. Dispatching will be on a "first on, first off" basis.

The MMDA hoped this would help bus companies save on fuel and operating expenses. Under the present free-for-all dispatch, buses run an average of four roundtrips per day, at each time carrying between 30 to 35 percent of their maximum passenger loading capacity, Santiago said. The OBR should ideally boost this so-called loading factor to 70 percent.

"We would not like to see very few buses while there are many passengers. This is to make sure that the number of buses plying their routes at a given time are sufficient for commuters," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

The study would ideally determine the dispatch schedule for roughly 3,030 buses plying 25 routes traversing Edsa, bound for both northern and southern Metro Manila destinations.

The agency has established terminals in Fairview, Navotas, Baclaran, FTI, and Alabang, and eight more control points near route endpoints, in which buses shall be issued their queue cards to signal their turn to make their trip.

The MMDA has also started issuing OBR tags to buses with proper franchises, to label documented buses obligated to take part in the scheme. These tamper-proof, non-transferable tags shall be displayed on the windshields of buses, and would serve as a prerequisite for buses to be issued queue cards, Santiago said.

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Passport service flies in Muntinlupa City

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THOUSANDS OF MUNTINLUPA City residents have managed to get passports in a snap.

A quarterly mobile passport service initiated by the local government in July 2004 with the help of the Department of Foreign Affairs has generated 6,000 passports to date, the city's Public Information Office said yesterday.

One-day service

The one-day service provided at city hall was conceptualized by the city government to make application and renewal for passports convenient for residents, said PIO head Tez Navarro.

"This is so that they won't have to go to Manila and endure the long lines at DFA," explained Navarro.

The Public Employment and Service Office, the program's lead implementor, also announced that they were able to issue 1,600 passports to residents from last weekend's activity.

The office also said that the program was becoming popular among residents of nearby cities.

"Thirty five percent of the applicants came from San Pedro, Laguna, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Taguig and Cavite," it noted.

The passport service is provided once every quarter. The next one will be in December.

Interested applicants need to bring their birth and baptismal certificates, employment identification card, voter's ID, National Bureau of Investigation clearance, driver's license or SSS ID.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Arvie has congenital heart disease.

THE ELDEST in a brood of five, Arvie Nery, is suffering from congenital heart disease and needs to continue with his medications and check-up at the Philippine Heart Center. That is even after an operation in June 2003. However, his father Reynaldo, only worked as a substitute taxi driver. Usually, his daily wage is barely enough for their family's needs. Arvie and his mother Virginia are appealing to kindhearted readers for help. Interested parties may contact Virginia at 0910-4698466 or 0910-2112339. Donations can be deposited in Reynaldo Nery's account, Union Bank 957-56-94-210.

ARVIE

Cancer has taken one of Jeremy's eyes

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Jeremy Cayabyab still needs your help. Jeremy is suffering from Retinoblastoma Extraocular stage, a cancer of the eye common among children—a disease which has already claimed his left eye. His doctors at the Philippine General Hospital say the disease has already spread to his bone marrow. His grandfather, Antonio, appealed for help in financing his grandson's chemotherapy sessions early this year, unfortunately, his mobile phone was stolen a few days after the article regarding Jeremy was published in February. Lack of funds have since made it impossible for Jeremy's chemotherapy sessions to continue. Missing a single session meant he now needs to start over. Once again, Jeremy and his grandfather are appealing to kind-hearted readers for financial and medical help. Each session costs about P12, 000, and Jeremy needs to undergo a total of eight sessions. Interested parties may contact Antonio at 0928-2555246. Donations may also be coursed directly to the account of Antonio Lacorda—PNB San Marcelino Branch, Account # 250554029-0.

JEREMY

No to used cars SUBIC

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR RICHARD GORDON

Dear Senator Gordon,

We, the members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Incorporated (CAMPI), the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA), the Automotive Industry Workers Alliance (AIWA), and the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (MVPMAP), composed of 75,000 employees reaffirm our unwavering support in your battle against technical smuggling and the importation of second-hand vehicles into the country.

Recent developments have shown strong indications that the importation of these vehicles may once again be allowed. This clearly contradicts certain provisions of an existing Republic Act 8506, that bans the importation of Right Hand Drive vehicles. This also runs contrary to the President's lawful objective for automotive industry under Executive Order 156 and her recent pronouncements calling for the creation of a law that will strengthen the elimination of used vehicle importations.

Mr. Senator, CAMPI, PAA, AIWA and MVPMAP share in your opinion that "...these activities must not be allowed in Subic or anywhere else because they foster corruption, smuggling, tax evasion to the great detriment of our economy."

We join you in your vigilance, along with the many other Filipinos, who only wish for genuine economic progress for our country. We stand by our faith in God and government that there are still morally upright individuals in public service, like you, willing to fight for what is right and doing what has to be done to protect this country from those who are looking only after their self-interest.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A25

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BASEBALL: MLB – Yankees vs. Orioles; 7 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN – New York takes on Baltimore over in the AL.

FOOTBALL: EPL – Liverpool vs Manchester United; STAR Sports – Reigning Champions League kings Liverpool take on the Red Devils from Man U.

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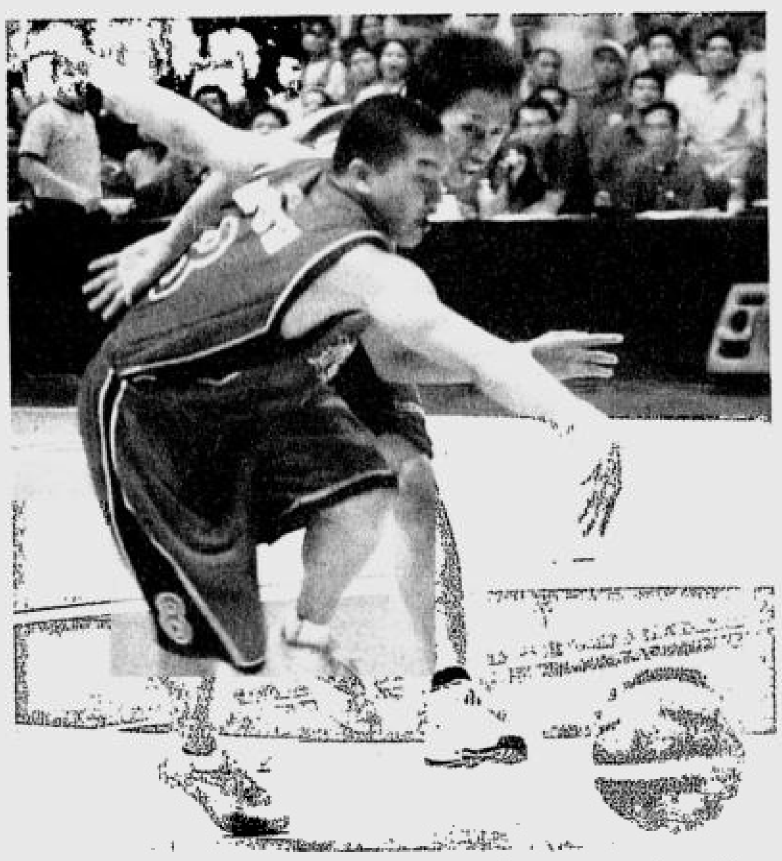
Dolphins gun for NC title today



PHILIPPINE Christian U's Lizstian Amparado disputes possession with Letran's Boyet Bautista in Game 1 of the best-of-three series. RYAN LIM

Espinas is man to watch as PCU attempts back-to-back feat

FOR THE PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN U DOLPHINS, EVERYTHING revolves around Gabby Espinas. But when their main man fouled out in Game 1 of the NCAA Finals, the defending champions again showed they have enough players who can knock down some big shots.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs SSC (Game 2-Jrs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Game 2-Srs)

"I've been telling them that everybody should chip in to the cause," said coach Junel Baculi of his Dolphins, who will go for a Finals sweep over the Letran Knights in Game 2 of the best-of-three series at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We must have up to 10 players who can contribute so we can match up with the 10 players of Letran, who can score in double figures any time," noted Baculi.

It was Jason Castro who responded in the clutch for the Dolphins, drilling in 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter of their 79-74 Game 1 win over the top-seeded Knights.

Espinas, named Defensive Player of the Year, delivered 20 points and eight rebounds before fouling out with 6:44 minutes remaining. Veter-

DOLPHINS/ A26

Marikina might lose women's football

7
days to go before
23rd SEA Games

THE MARIKINA SPORTS COMPLEX has until the middle of October to put its football turf in shape or lose the rights to hold women's soccer action in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Thai officials, who did the rounds of the various venues to be used, reportedly objected to the holding of women's football in Marikina because the pitch is still undergoing repairs so it can measure up to international standards. A second venue at the Ultra in Pasig is also being prepared, just in case.

* * *

THREE new advertisers, coughing up about P50 million, put the Organizing Committee within reach of its projected P1.2 billion budget for the Games. Hapee, Philips and FBT equipment formally joined the bandwagon, raising the total to about P950 million. *Musong R. Castillo*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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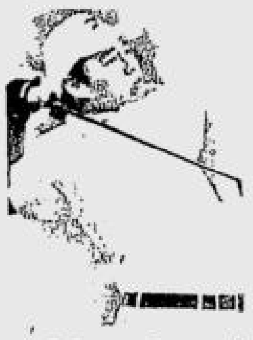

Murakami stars as Nomura bets trail by 9 shots /A27

Perfect for 300 at 12 /A28

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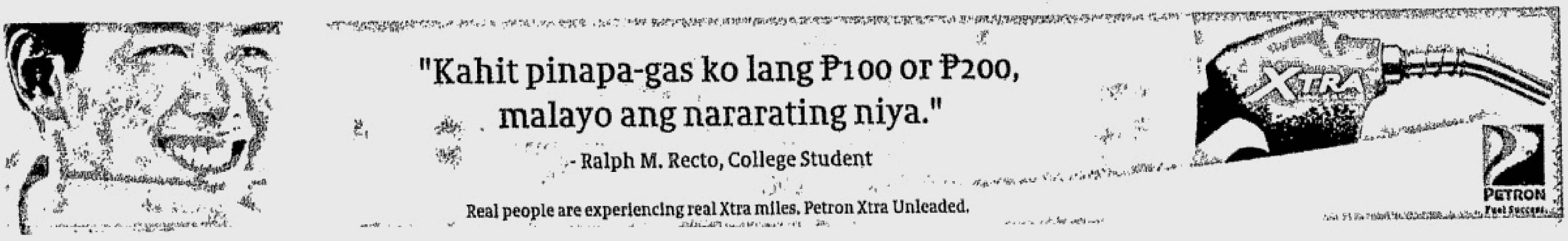
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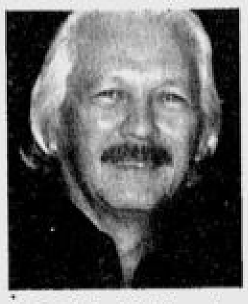

GARCIA: Making do

By Musong R. Castillo

A RETRO LOOK.

While most advances in equipment, apparel, shoes and even in performance will be seen in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the Rizal Memorial track and field oval's official scoreboard will again glitter in all its old, black and white glory.

Instead of bringing in a new apparatus that would cost anywhere from P40-P50 million, the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc) has imported manpower and materials from Malaysia to fix the old one at a fraction of the cost.

Problem is, while most venues around the world and Asia flash athletes' faces and results in full matrix, ours will do the same minus the living color.

Roughly US$100,000 (P5.6 million) will be spent to make all the lights and mechanisms in the old scoreboard function again after the Philsoc ordered spare parts from Indostronics, a European brand distributed by a Malaysian firm in Asia.

Timing devices will also be imported from Singapore and Malaysia and Richie Garcia, the operations chief of the Philsoc, admitted that some of the events will be timed manually.

"To save cost," Garcia said.

A plan to buy a device smaller than the old Berhart brand that has adorned the Rizal oval for years has been scrapped.

Garcia also said that repairs on the oval itself is going according to schedule, the rubber matting, which arrived from Singapore last week, to be installed as soon as the asphalt layer is completed.

The PSC commissioner said that he expects the Rizal oval to be operational 15 days before the opening of the Games on Nov. 27 so that the RP athletes will have a feel of the surface before the others do.

5 RP netters hurdle foes in ITF opener

FILIPINO WILD CARD RAYmond Villarete displayed impressive form yesterday to eliminate fourth seed Chang Chien Ting-Lung of Chinese Taipei, 6-3, 6-1, in the opening round of the Phinma-International Tennis Federation (ITF) Juniors Championships at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

The victory sent Villarete up against compatriot and World Junior Championships veteran Joshua Tan Ho, who survived South Korea's Kim Sun-hong, 7-5, 6-4.

Second seed Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez, the second highest-ranked Filipino in the ITF World Juniors at No. 401, bested compatriot Russell Arcilla Jr., 6-0, 6-1, later in the afternoon.

Fifth seed Pablo Olivarez II and unranked Michael Basco were the only other homegrown bets to reach the second round of this ITF Group 4 event supported by Dunlop, Holiday Inn Manila Galleria, Bayer Philippines and Futures Foundation.

Olivarez, who sees action in the Junior Davis Cup next week in Spain, breezed past wild card Felix Assad, 6-2, 6-0, to advance against Chinese Taipei's Lin Kuan-heng, who downed Japan's Shinichiro Okabe, 6-4, 6-4.

Basco, on the other hand, downed Japanese qualifier Ryoken Matsui, 6-2, 6-3, to forge a second-round duel with third seed Lee Tung-han of Chinese Taipei. Lee overpowered Malaysian qualifier Mohd Fazree Said, 6-4, 6-2.

Top seeded Australian William MacNamee, sixth seeded Japanese Toshiya Suzuki and No. 7 Indonesian Lenz Theodor scored contrasting wins to also advance in the next round.

MacNamee, currently No. 304 in the ITF World Juniors rankings, struggled in the first set before blowing past Filipino Christian Carlo Canlas, 7-6 (1), 6-3. The Australian is set to face South Korean qualifier Chung Soo-han in the next round. Ching outsteadied Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsin-wei, 7-5, 6-4.

Suzuki had an easy time disposing of local qualifier Gerardo Narvaez, 6-3, 6-1, and will next meet Malaysian Mohd Ashaa Zainal Abidin, who defeated Filipino Leyan Moncera, 6-3, 6-1.

Theodor, ranked No. 813 in the world, survived local wild card Francis Casey Alcantara, 6-3, 7-6 (4), to advance against Chinese Taipei's Lee Yi-pei, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over Filipino wild card Akio Hari Ong Sy.

MIGUEL Narvaez unleashes a backhand against compatriot Russell Arcilla during their Phinma-ITF match yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

Tight volley title fights shaping up

THE FIGHT FOR THE TWO FINALS BERTHS OF the WNCAA 36th season senior volleyball tournament becomes a three-way race in both groups after league favorites scored wins over the weekend at the RTU gym.

Defending champion Lyceum of the Philippines, Rizal Technological University and newcomer AMA Computer University are the contenders in Group A while Miriam College, host Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila and St. Scholastica's College are vying for the other finals slot in Group B.

Lyceum defeated University of Asia & the Pacific, 25-10, 25-12, 25-15, to stay on top in Group A at 7-0.

RTU stood second at 6-1 following a 25-9, 25-9, 25-18 win over World Citi Colleges.

Miriam paced Group B at 9-1, boosted by back-to-back victories over San Beda College Alabang, 25-15, 25-19, 25-23, and Centro Escolar University, 25-19, 26-24, 20-25, 25-17.

EAC chalked up its eighth win against a lone defeat after stopping St. Scho, 25-10, 23-25, 25-14, 25-16.

The top two teams of each group will vie for the championship.

The WNCAA 36th season is being supported by Adidas, Penshoppe, Mikasa, Molten, Cherifer vitamin, Rio 106.7 and ABC 5.

Dolphins . . .

From page A25

an Robert Sanz also contributed six of his 10 markers in the final period.

Coach Louie Alas conceded that his Knights lost their offensive spark in the closing minutes.

"We lost because of ourselves," said Alas. "We didn't attack. We were passive. Our aggressiveness should be consistent for 40 minutes. But we were only aggressive for 20 minutes."

Most Improved Player Aaron Aban and clutch-shooter Boyet Bautista started out strong but lost their touch as the Knights surprisingly went scoreless in the last 2:45 minutes of play.

Four of Letran's first five finished in double figures, with Aban leading with a team-high 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"The first order of the day is to bounce back," said Alas, but stressed that his Knights should forget about their fabulous 13-1 run, including their elimination-round sweep of the Dolphins.

"We should forget that record," he said. "Look at the stats, we didn't blow that team (PCU) out. But it's not over."

Baculi agreed that a Letran comeback is likely, but believes that his Dolphins could sustain their intensity on court.

"I've been telling my players that we have to embrace the pressure," he said. "That's what winners are made of."

"Winning Game 1 in a best-of-three series is very big," said Baculi. "But it's nothing if we can't win another game." *Jasmine W. Payo*

Coaches predict a 4-team Fiesta Cup race

By Francis Ochoa

PUREFOODS coach Ryan Gregorio is looking to beef up his frontline before the deadline for submission of lineups tomorrow, but without sacrificing too much of his current core of players preparing for the coming PBA season.

"We're probably the shortest team so we really have to beef up our frontline," said Gregorio, who denied any possible movement within the Purefoods camp yesterday.

The champion coach, though, said he hopes to try and pull out something today and added he has several players in mind.

"But you can figure them out because there are very few established big men that we really want to go after," Gregorio said.

There were reports Purefoods was going to get into a three-team trade involving Air21 and Coca-Cola, but Gregorio said nothing is happening as of now.

Purefoods is hoping to shore up its roster for the Fiesta Cup, where four teams have emerged as the consensus top choices to top the tournament.

Defending champion San Miguel Beer, Talk 'N Text, Alaska and Ginebra were named by several coaches as the favorites for the Fiesta Cup.

"*Kapag nakita mo 'yung* lineup *nung apat, nakakatakot* (If you look at the lineups of the four teams, it's scary)," said Sta. Lucia mentor Alfrancis Chua during yesterday's PSA Forum sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"I agree with the rest," Red Bull's Yeng Guiao said. "Add my vote to them."

Alaska's acquisition of Rich Alvarez and Tony dela Cruz has made the Aces a heavy contender, especially with Tee McClary planing in early to gel with the squad.

"We're just lucky to have Tee come here earlier and he played some games with us," said Tim Cone of the import who was with the Aces when they finished runner-up behind the RP national team during the Shell Cup Invitational tournament in Brunei.

The Phone Pals, on the other hand, have acquired top amateur draftees Anthony Washington and La Salle hotshot Mac Cardona from Air21.

Have P5, watch the games

COLISEUM seats for only P5? As a way of treating its loyal supporters, Asia's first-ever play-for-pay league is launching its "Give Me 5" promo. For only P5, PBA fans can—for the whole month of October—watch the games from the general admission and Upper B sections of the Araneta Coliseum. The league is lowering ticket prices so that basketball fans can watch their favorite players in action. "This is our way of giving fans what is due them, especially in these tough economic times," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. Total gate receipts from the two coliseum sections will be matched by the league's chosen sponsor for the day and it will go to the lucky charitable institution to be picked by the league.

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Race 4—1. Dagger Look 2. Red Storm 3. Gold Money 4. Scarlet Beauty
Race 5—1. Black Squall 2. Real Black 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Bunker Buster 5. Legally Blonde
Race 6—1. Hale and Hearty 2. Jaw Breaker 3. Modern Classic 4. Lovely Tara
Race 7—1. Showtime Lady 2. Sunline 3. Lucky Joe 4. Native Prince 5. Itz Me Dahlin
Race 8—1. Sugar Ray 2. My Lucky One/Fair Urduja 3. Western Dancer 4. Hezagone Babes 5. Expediter 6. Rose and Toy

Why is Manny Pacquiao rushing to Japan?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

REPORTING FROM HIS CEBU BASE, sportsman Rex Wakee Salud explained with unconcealed glee how he had to rope in Manny Pacquiao like a galloping colt.

"*Sus, lahat man hinila si* Manny (Lord, everybody wants to have a piece of Manny)," Salud said.

Monday morning, Salud successfully reined in Pacquiao and the two of them filed applications for Japanese visas in Cebu.

They're booked to fly to Tokyo Friday to next help and root for RP's Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon when he fights for the WBA minimumweight title in Yokohama on Sunday.

Salud already felt triumphant that he was able to corner Pacquiao, who could not cope with his endless commitments following that sensational knockout win over Mexican slugger Hector Velazquez in California on Sept. 11.

* * *

Pacquiao had said yes in advance and Salud quickly attested that the world boxing hotshot does not relish running away from commitments.

When Pacquiao takes the connecting train from the Narita airport to Yokohama on Friday, it would be to help sustain the glorious multiple RP ring victories he had sparked at the Staples Center in LA.

Salud swore he cannot measure the inspiration and assurance the 26-year-old Gejon (21-0-1, with 13 knockouts) could draw from Pacquiao's physical presence when the tall, talented warrior from Mandaue takes on Yutaka Niida (21-2, 16 KOs) at the 20,000-capacity Yokohama Arena on Sunday.

Niida, 28, a native of Yokohama, will be making the third defense of his 105-lb world boxing crown.

After the celebrated wins scored by the trio of Pacquiao, Boom Boom Bautista, and Brian Viloria, who went on to annex the WBC 108-lb crown, Gejon is now tasked to box magnificently and make it 4-for-4 for RP in the world boxing stage.

* * *

Of course, just like your reporter here, you also haven't heard much about Gejon.

For starters, we had to inquire the quality of competition he had faced in securing an enviable unbeaten record.

Our man in Cebu, international boxing judge Salven Lagumbay, reports that Gejon had fought some of the toughest foes in his division. He suffered a cut in Indonesia and was forced to settle for a technical draw. He had also scored a win in Venezuela.

Gejon has had several fights against tough Thais and rated local fighters in Cebu, Lagumbay added.

In short, he's not the sort who had been fed straying barbers and assorted pushovers.

* * *

The thing here is that Pacquiao, who obviously has a clearer idea of Gejon's full worth and spear-like sharpness, won't be wasting precious time going to Yokohama if he hasn't smelled victory.

Wakee Salud? He won't speak of the possible specter of a hometown decision.

Gejon's manager simply said he expects a tough night, adding that his fighter should be equal to the task.

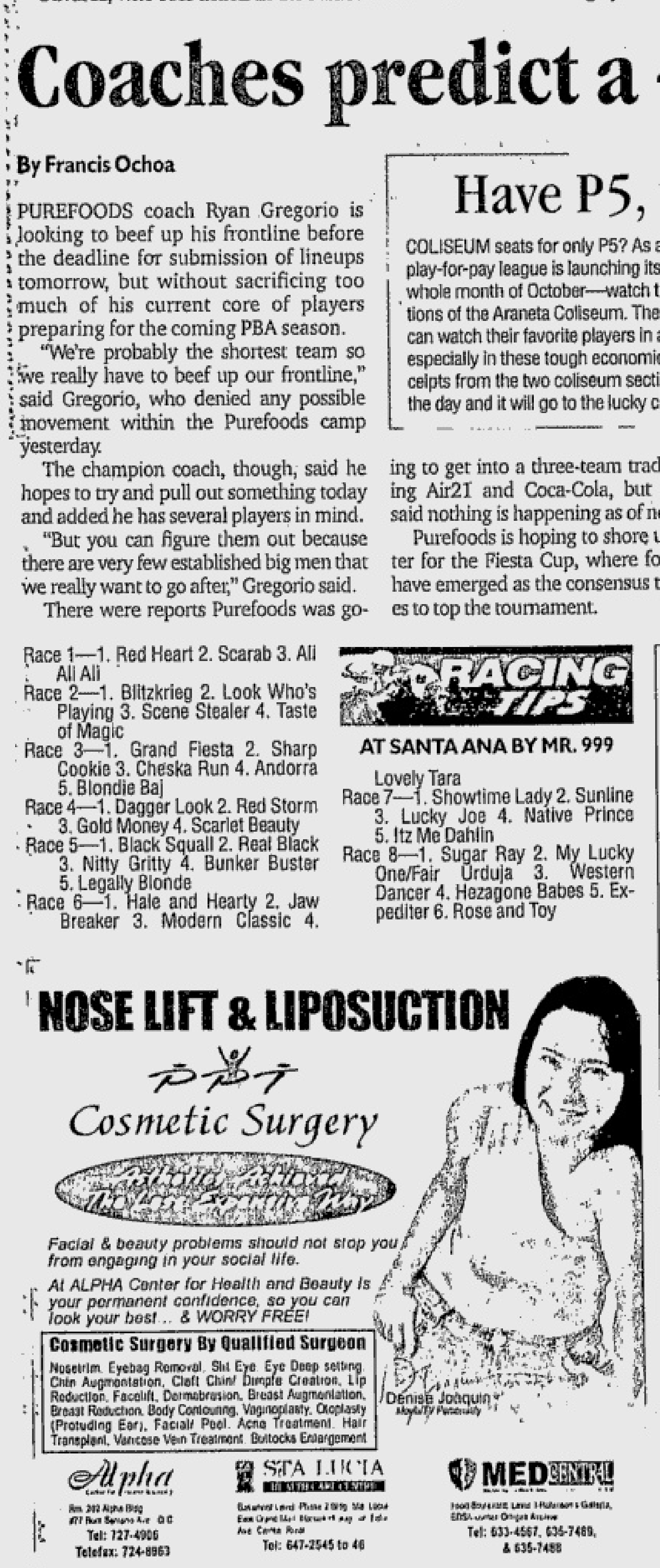
Yes, Gejon, son of a seaman, could make it a truly glorious 4-for-4 for the Philippines in world boxing.

Funny, but Wakee Salud would express amazement upon being reminded he himself would be eyeing for a Magic 4 come Sunday.

For the record, Wakee leads the local race among international boxing managers. He has already produced three world champions: Dodie Boy Peñalosa, Gerry Peñalosa and Malcolm Tuñacao.

Well, Salud could have been too obsessed roping in Manny Pacquiao for Gejon's world title challenge.

Just as he had displayed at the Staples Center, Pacquiao could again flash the magic wand and sustain RP's glory surge in Yokohama Sunday night.



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Bata, Amang rout US Open opponents

FILIPINO POOL ICONS EFREN "BATA" Reyes and Jose "Amang" Parica hurdled their respective rivals at the start of the 30th US Open 9-Ball Billiard Championship Monday night at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The 51-year-old Reyes, winner of the 1994 edition of the prestigious event, routed American Ricky Bingham, 11-2, and is slated to face the winner of the match between Terry Dunn and Tuan Kait Goh.

"It's harder to win nowadays," said Reyes. "There are many good players now. The one who'll get the breaks will probably win."

Reyes, who bested compatriot Francisco "Django" Bustamante in a recent $9,000 winner-take-all duel in Linden, New Jersey, is among the favorites in the 256-player field.

Parica, who now lives in West Covena, California, downed American Jerry Bento, 11-4, and will face David Hall in the next round.

Sharing the limelight is Canada-based Filipino "Maestro" Mistica, who demolished Ed Scott, 11-1, to arrange a showdown with Tony Chohan.

Defending champion Gabe Owen also won his initial match against Stein Amundsen.

Other Filipino cue players competing in the event are Bustamante, Marlon Manalo, Warren Kiamco, Santos Sambajon, Deo Aljapora and Al Lapena. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Murakami stars as Nomura bets trail by 9 shots

PHILIPPINE team spearhead Artemio Murakami birdies six of the last 13 holes to match pacesetting Australia's best scorers.

NARITA, JAPAN—ARTEMIO MURAKAMI sizzled with a 67 but top gun Juvic Pagunsan bombed out with a 75 as the Philippines settled for a four-under-par 212 to fall nine strokes behind awesome Australia at the start of the 22nd Nomura Cup here Tuesday.

Three birdies on the last five holes capped Murakami's superb 34-33 round at the wind-swept Narita Golf Club, but the team needed Jay Bayron's resiliency and Erwin Vinluan's steady game on the backside to tie New Zealand for third place at 212.

Bayron, the former Uratex caddies champion, fought back from a 38 by gunning down three birdies at the back of the up-and-down layout for a 71, while Vinluan played his last nine holes even par for a 74 in the four-to-play, three-to-count event also known as the Asia-Pacific Golf Team Championship.

Pagunsan, the spearhead of the squad sent here by the National Golf Association of the Philippines through golf patron Ricky Razon, struggled with his putter all day. He muffed a three-footer for par on No. 5 and even missed a two-foot birdie putt on No. 10. He had nines of 39-36.

The defending champion Aussies came up with a couple of 67s and two 69s to underscore their repeat bid with a 13-under 203 total for a five-shot lead over South Korea.

Michael Sim, a holdover from the 2003 champion squad, and Andrew Tampion matched Murakami's 67 while either one of the 69s of Andrew Dodt and Korean recruit Lee Woo-joon counted.

So dominating were the Aussies that their worst score proved even better than some leading scorers for teams in this four-day biennial event, which drew 16 nations.

South Korea, with Kim Kyung-tae and Lee Dong-hwan firing 69s and Kang Sung-hoon shooting a 70, took second place with a 208 while New Zealand, led by Mark Purser's 68, tied the Philippines at 212.

Japan, behind the 70s of Yuki Ito and Ryoma Iwai, shot a 213 to share fifth place with RP's SEA Games rival Malaysia, while a youth-laden Thailand side stood at 214 in a tie with Taiwan, whose 13-year-old jungolfer played like a pro in the all-amateur tournament by shooting a 64.

Cheng Tsung-pan, who will only turn 14 in November, birdied the first three holes of each nine and went on to fire three more that negated his three-putt bogey on No. 13 for a 32-32 card, two short of the course record 62 posted by Japanese pro Hiro Yoshida in 2000.

He was so overwhelmed by his feat that he could only shake his head when asked how he did it. Still, it failed to fire up his teammates as Chang Chen-chih had a 74 and Chen Ming-chuan made 76.

Notwithstanding Pagunsan's forgettable round, RP team coach Bong Lopez and team captain Gen. Roberto Sabularse remained hopeful of their wards' chances.

"It was one of Juvic's bad starts," said Lopez. "I know he will fight back and score tomorrow and the next two days."

Murakami, 22, kept the RP team together, his superb pitch-in birdie on No. 1 hinting of an explosive day for the youngest player to win the national amateur crown back home. He prevailed six years ago at 16.

He birdied the tricky No. 3 to go 2-under, dropped two strokes on the next two holes but rattled off six birdies, including a birdie-birdie windup, against a bogey in the last 13 holes.

Champs to get automatic RP pool slots

THE WINNERS IN THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Golf Championship will earn automatic slots in the national training pool of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

The tournament is set Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 at the Negros Occidental GCC in Bacolod City.

"Excluded from this incentive, of course, are the Koreans, Chinese and other foreign entries," said NGAP president Benny Gopez, who foresees a banner field in this 44th year of the nation's premier amateur event.

For the first time since 1961, the women's division will be played in the event that earned robust backing from Philippine Airlines, the event's official carrier.

Members of the male and female training pools will have to contend with new faces in the field targeted to breach the 160-entry projection in this event sponsored by ICTSI, Aboitiz, Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Philippine Airlines, Bench, Department of Tourism, Omega, C2 and San Miguel Corp.

Deadline for registration is on Sept. 23. For details, call NGAP at 5256987, 5245160, 0920-9507514 and 0917-5607074 or NOGCC at (034) 4411190. Also e-mail the NGAP at ngapgolf@hotmail.com and mngapgolf@yahoo.com.

Baby Saints in Naascu finals again

GAME TOMORROW (*Tanduay Gym*)
1 p.m.—University of Manila vs New Era U

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ST. CLARE EXPERIMENTED WITH A 15-MAN rotation against an outclassed University of Makati squad yesterday, cruising to a 106-72 win in their junior semifinal showdown in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the CEU Gym.

The Baby Saints, described by coach Joel Dualan as oozing with talents, made it for the fifth straight year to the finals, where they hope to end their long losing spell to University of Manila.

St. Clare was hardly threatened but chose to unleash its force in the third quarter where it outscored UMak, 30-13.

They will take on the winner of the UM-New Era semis duel which starts Friday where the Baby Hawks also enjoy a twice-to-beat bonus like St. Clare against UMak.

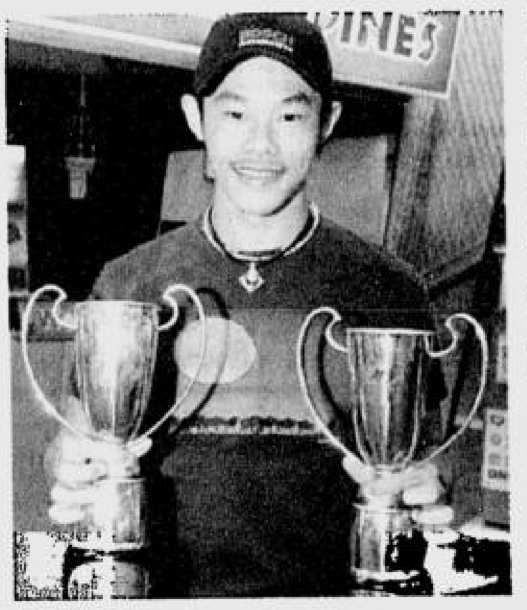
"I know that every player we have deserves to be in the team," said Dualan. "That's why I wanted to give them playing time and see how they step up to the challenge."

The scores:

ST. CLARE 106—Coronel 21, Allen 15, Torres 13, Gomez 10, Manzanero 10, Bello 8, Ching 6, Austria 5, Toleta 5, Role 3, Blitz 3, Coronel 3, Guiriba 2, Pasagui 2, Palma 0.

UMAK 72—Elman 13, Rugeria 12, Bugna 9, Yamane 8, Sanchez 7, Halasan 7, Fatalla 6, Andrea 6, Moore 4, Boncato 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 30-19, 55-38, 85-51, 106-72



DOUBLE KILL: Tyson Sy shows the trophies he won for his back-to-back breakthrough victories in the ninth and 10th legs of the tough Asian Formula Three series at the Sentul track in Indonesia over the weekend. The 16-year-old Sy, racing for Speedtech Asia, moved up to second in the AF3 standings with only two more legs left in the series.
ROGER MARGALLO

Tuñacao eyes OPBF bantam title Nov. 19

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

FORMER WORLD BOXING COUNcil flyweight champion Malcolm Tuñacao guns for the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation bantamweight title of Thailand's Kumarnthong Por Pluemkamo on Nov. 19 at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

The 26-year-old southpaw Tuñacao, currently ranked WBC No. 7 super flyweight, is set to return to Japan this Friday to start his rigid training as a bantamweight and to cheer for his buddy Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon, who will vie for the World Boxing Association crown this Sunday in Yokohama.

The 31-year-old Kumarnthong took the OPBF title with a majority decision win over Japanese Jun Toriumi on July 16 in Tokyo.

Tuñacao (18-1-2, 13 KOs) is coming off a seventh-round technical knockout win over Japanese Ryoichi Hidaka on July 18 in Osaka—his seventh straight victory since yielding his WBC flyweight title to Pongsaklek Wongjongkam in 2001 due to weight problems.

Now managed by Tokyo-based businessman Yasuo Matsuoka, the talented Mandaue City fighter is aiming for yet another crack at the world title, possibly against WBC champ Hozumi Hasegawa.

In 2000, Tuñacao made headlines when he annexed the WBC flyweight crown in just his 11th fight as a pro, battering Manny Pacquiao conqueror Medgoen 3K Battery into submission in the seventh round in Thailand.

Cycling Search Invt'l hits Tarlac Saturday

ANOTHER cycling hotbed in Central Luzon will be in the limelight when Tarlac City gets to host the third leg of the 2005 Cycling Search Invitational series along Ninoy Aquino Boulevard on Sept. 24.

After successful stops in Manila and Cabanatuan City, the criterium races organized by Treo Sales Management Corp. will stage the event in the the sugar-producing province in cooperation with Tarlac Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Vice Mayor Tess Cabal and the Sangguniang Panglungsod.

"Tarlac has always been a strong supporter of local cycling," said race director Ric Rodriguez.

The competition will be held in a 3.8-km stretch of Ninoy Aquino Boulevard, starting and finishing near McDonald's.

"The sprinting skills of the cyclists will be crucial," said Rodriguez, himself a proud son of Tarlac.

Valencia, Mantawi fives begin best-of-3

VALENCIA CITY—VALENCIA GOLDen Harvest will host third-seeded Mantawi today at the start of their best-of-three quarterfinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the city gym here.

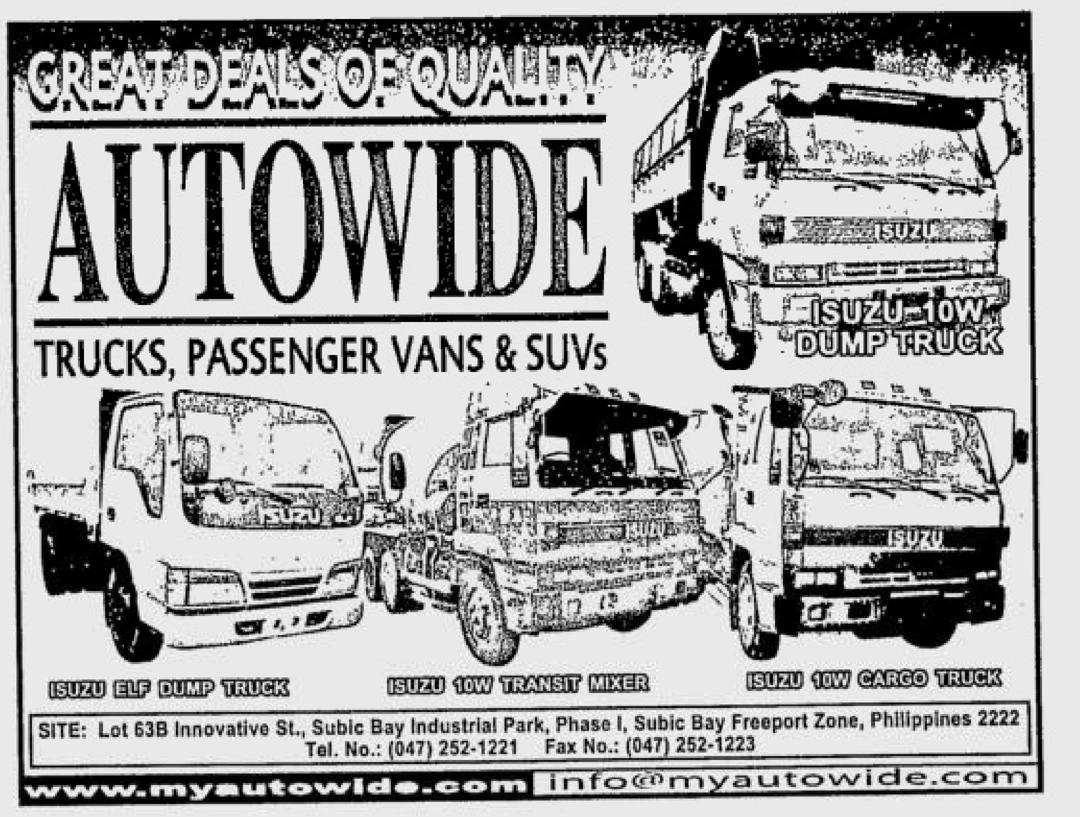
The 6 p.m. contest is expected to be a toss-up.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia is coming off an 82-69 win over the Iloilo Warriors, while Mantawi, which toppled Golden Harvest in the classification round, hopes to bounce back from a 74-79 loss to defending champion Tribu Sugbu.

"Valencia is a strong team that plays much stronger before its home crowd," said Mantawi coach Jun Noel. "It has a tall frontline and a good backcourt, but our boys are ready."

The Hapee Toothpaste/Dewfoam-backed Sparkling Nights pin their hopes on PBL veteran Ardy Larong, former Negros Slashers playmaker Maui Huelar and shooters Dennis Daa and Jayson Alminario.

On the other hand, Valencia hopes to pull another surprise with the help of Nat Cruz, Frank Nailon, Dino Cabili and Julius Navales.



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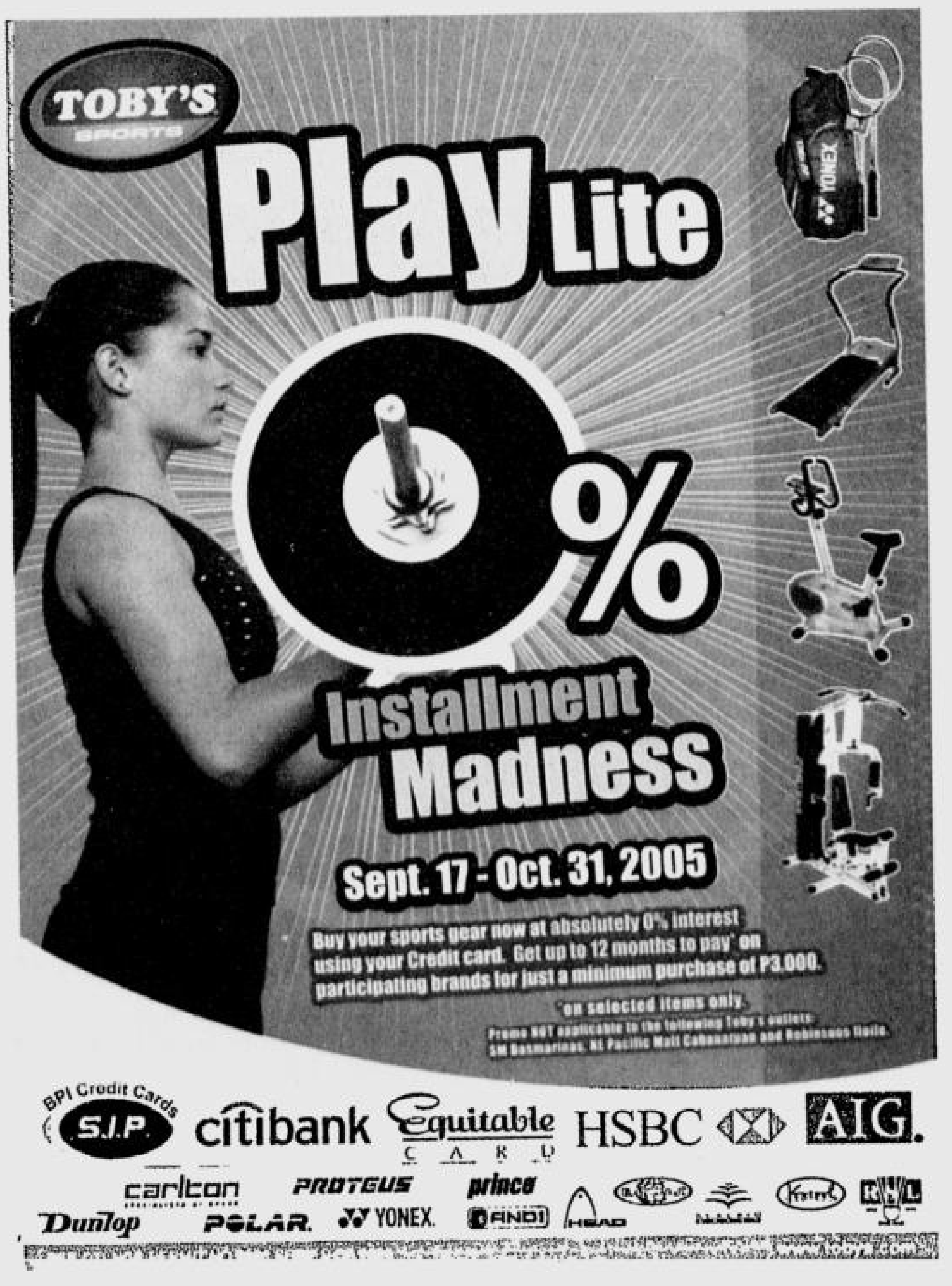

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No friendly hug for Pumaren brothers

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I THOUGHT THE La Salle-UE rematch last Sunday would end in a hug-and-make-up scenario between Franz and Dindo Pumaren. I was wrong.

I watched the brothers cross paths after the game, but they hardly even touched each other. No hug, not even a handshake. If Franz was poised for a gesture of endearment, Dindo looked like he wasn't. He strode straight ahead, looking far ahead. All Franz could manage was a light pat on his younger bro's arm.

At the start of the game, I saw Pumaren matriarch Marietta take a seat behind the Warriors bench. I found this odd, because on occasions like this, the Pumarens make sure parental support is equally divided. Pilo, a UE alumnus, sits behind the UE bench while Marietta cheers for the Green Archers.

Word has reached me that Marietta didn't like some of the nasty things some La Salle alumni have been saying, straight or otherwise, against Dindo, that's why she shifted camp. Dindo, like Franz, is a La Salle alumnus.

* * *

Dindo said the conflict was all about the UE protest which La Salle felt he shouldn't have filed, in deference to his alma mater.

"It's all water under the bridge now," Dindo said, "but the move was purely professional and should not be taken personally. The protest would have been filed, whether it is against any other team in the UAAP. Had it been the other way around, I'm sure La Salle would have done the same thing."

Dindo pointed out that when La Salle filed a protest against UE over a goal-tending violation early this season, "something I didn't even see coming, nobody heard a single complaint from my end."

Dindo and Franz are always being pitted against each other. Remember last year when Dindo was voted UAAP Coach of the Year? The trophy was eventually awarded to Franz because the fickle-minded board changed the criteria for selection at the last minute.

* * *

Caught the last few minutes of the PSA forum on radio yesterday where the PBA coaches were airing their concerns for the incoming 2005-2006 season.

Sta. Lucia's Alfrancis Chua and Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio both agreed that officiating could certainly stand some improvement, while Fedex's new head coach Bo Perasol said the matter of dwindling gate attendance should be seriously looked into.

On the other hand, Coke's Binky Favis' major concern was how to be able to live up to management's expectations.

I didn't hear what the other coaches had to say because the program was abruptly cut to give way to the next.

Alaska's Tim Cone, who was earlier asked by a tactful scribe if he was grooming a successor to his job, answered explicitly that he was not about to retire yet.

"I'm still enjoying what I'm doing," said Tim, the Aces' grand slam coach of 16 years.

* * *

The PBL is certainly going places. The league has just moved to a new office at the west wing of the posh Tektite building in Ortigas.

"It's on the 23rd floor and it has a nice view. It overlooks the San Miguel Corp. complex," said the PBL media bureau officer. He reminded all applicants to the Sept. 30 rookie draft to present an authenticated copy of their birth certificates and an ID photo with their application forms, to be submitted not later than Sept. 27.

The PBL games will most likely be housed at the newly refurbished San Andres Gym, which is situated not too far from the Rizal Memorial Complex in Vito Cruz, former home of the league.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Talk 'N Text consultant Derick Pumaren has turned over Aus$ 150 to the Rudy Distrito fund donated by Sydney-based Filipino Nito Lopez, who visited him while he was there with the Phone Pals recently. Talk 'N Text played a series of tune-up games against local Australian teams in preparation for the incoming PBA season… This update on Ginebra's Eric Menk will surely be a disappointment to Gins fans like Rosalie Alay-Ay who has long been waiting for her idol to return to active duty. According to SMC's Robert Non, Eric is still working on his citizenship papers.

Comments to celishuddle@yahoo.com

Klitschko seeks to destroy Rahman in title tiff

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—VITALI Klitschko is to defend his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Hasim Rahman in Las Vegas on November 12.

"This fight will bring back the heavyweight division," promoter Bob Arum told reporters at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Monday.

Arum said the bout, billed as 'Seek and Destroy', would be the most significant contest in the division for years.

The 34-year-old Klitschko twice pulled out of fights with former champion Rahman earlier this year.

Klitschko had to withdraw from the first bout due to a thigh injury. A back problem kept him out the second time.

The Ukrainian has a record of 35 victories and two defeats, with 34 knockouts.

Rahman has won 41 of his 47 fights, with 33 knockouts.

The 32-year-old American is best known for his shock victory over Briton Lennox Lewis in South Africa in 2001.

Rahman, who was a 14-1 underdog to defeat champion Lewis, caused one of the biggest boxing upsets in recent years.

He lost the title in a rematch with Lewis seven months later.

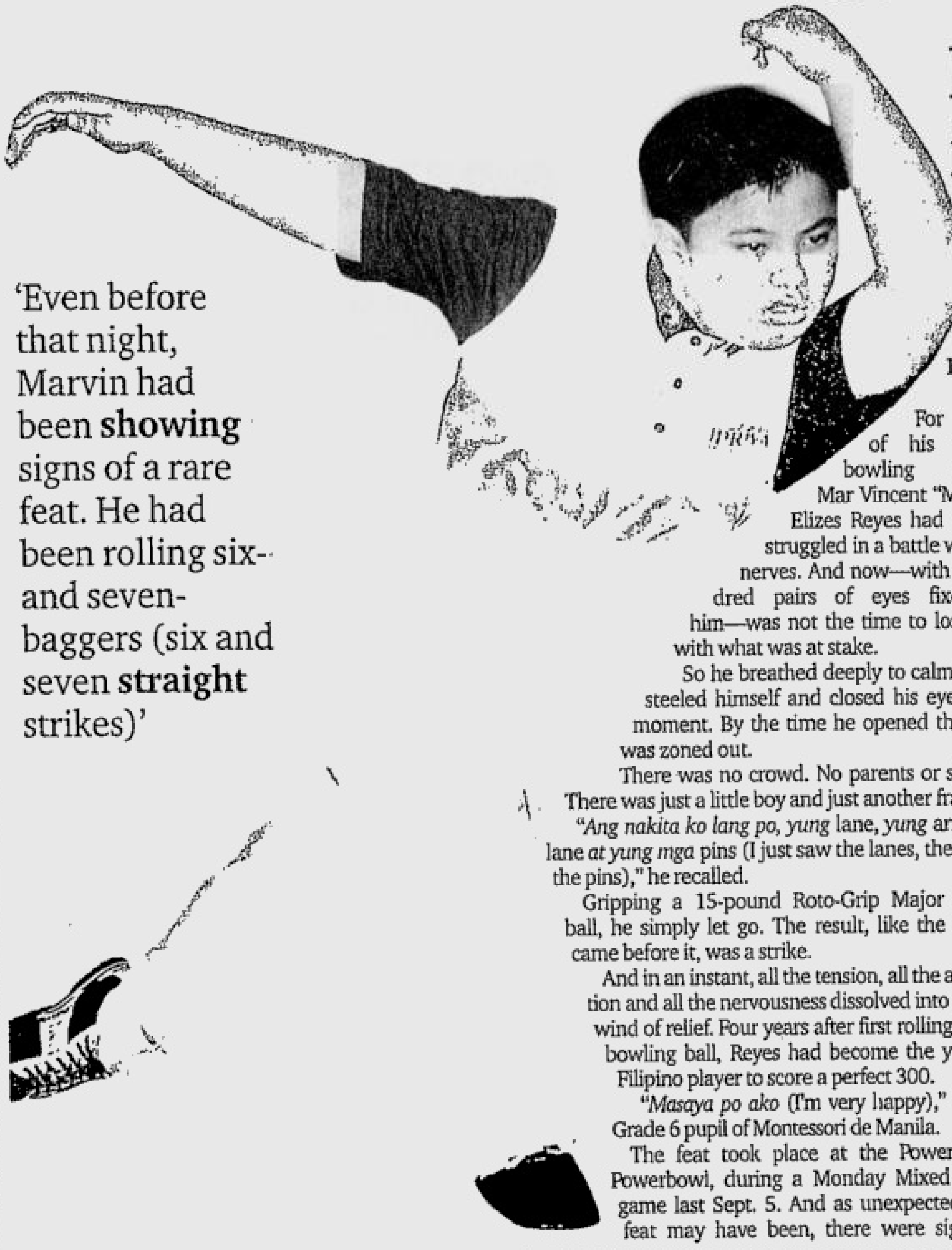
Klitschko's purse for the November fight will be $7.8 million while Rahman receives $4.2 million. *Reuters*

KLITSCHKO hits the speed bag. REUTERS

Perfect for 300 at 12

Marvin Reyes rolls into RP keg history

By Francis Ochoa



'Even before that night, Marvin had been **showing** signs of a rare feat. He had been rolling six- and seven-baggers (six and seven **straight** strikes)'

THERE HE WAS, AT THE CENTER OF HIS hushed universe, all 12 years and three months of him standing on the edge of glory.

For most of his young bowling career, Mar Vincent "Marvin" Elizes Reyes had always struggled in a battle with his nerves. And now—with a hundred pairs of eyes fixed on him—was not the time to lose. Not with what was at stake.

So he breathed deeply to calm down, steeled himself and closed his eyes for a moment. By the time he opened them, he was zoned out.

There was no crowd. No parents or siblings. There was just a little boy and just another frame.

"*Ang nakita ko lang po, yung* lane, *yung* arrows *sa* lane *at yung mga* pins (I just saw the lanes, the arrows the pins)," he recalled.

Gripping a 15-pound Roto-Grip Major Assault ball, he simply let go. The result, like the 11 that came before it, was a strike.

And in an instant, all the tension, all the anticipation and all the nervousness dissolved into a whirlwind of relief. Four years after first rolling his first bowling ball, Reyes had become the youngest Filipino player to score a perfect 300.

"*Masaya po ako* (I'm very happy)," said the Grade 6 pupil of Montessori de Manila.

The feat took place at the Power Plant's Powerbowl, during a Monday Mixed League game last Sept. 5. And as unexpected as the feat may have been, there were signs that something special was about to happen.

"*Nakakatuwa* actually *ang kuwento* (It was an interesting tale)," narrated dad Bimbo Reyes, who was with Marvin that night, along with wife Marie and their other two children, Marjo and Marty. "We usually pray the rosary at night and we decided to pray in the car, on the way to the mall. That night, *siya* (Marvin) *yung nag*-lead *ng* rosary."

"But even before that night, Marvin had been showing signs of a rare feat," he added. "He had been rolling six- and seven-baggers (six and seven straight strikes)."

By the time he had rolled his ninth strike that night, the venue announcer asked everybody to be quiet—as is standard in bowling—so Marvin could go on with his bid to beat the record previously held by Jason Tubid, who was a few months older than Marvin when he carved out his 300. All that was left was to battle the nerves that always seemed to get in his way during league games.

"*Nanlamig talaga siya* (He froze)," Bimbo said of Marvin, a developmental training pool member.

"*Talagang may nerbiyos po ako* (I really get nervous)," admitted Marvin. That night, the nerves were stilled and the record was iced. But the celebration had to wait until the weekend.

"*May pasok pa kasi kinabukasan* There's school the next day) and it was getting late," said Bimbo, laughing.

Marvin would not have cared less. He had achieved a special feat and the way he handled the pressure gave him the confidence to chase after his bowling dreams.

"*Gusto ko po makalaro balang araw sa* (I want to someday play in the) World Cup," he said. He's already had a perfect start toward achieving those goals.

WNBA FINALS

Monarchs march toward crown

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—IF Yolanda Griffith can lead Sacramento to one more victory in the WNBA Finals, the franchise will have its first championship—and Griffith, the Monarchs' scowling star, finally might get the respect she deserves.

Griffith, the sharp-elbowed power forward known for those dour looks as much as her superb low-post game, already has carried the Monarchs to the Western Conference's best record and the longest postseason run in Sacramento history.

She had 19 points and 11 rebounds in the Monarchs' 66-55 victory over the Connecticut Sun in Game 3 on Sunday. Up 2-1, Sacramento can end the series with a victory in Game 4 on Tuesday—and after waiting seven years for the chance to be on the WNBA's biggest stage, Griffith isn't about to waste it.

"Even though we're playing at home, nothing is guaranteed," Griffith said. "You've got to stay focused. You've got to execute offensively. You've got to shut players down defensively… Tuesday's game is a must-win."

Griffith is averaging 20 points—six more than her regular-season average—and 9.7 rebounds in the finals despite the defensive efforts of Connecticut's Taj McWilliams-Franklin, her rival since both players' days in the defunct American Basketball League.

Though she's not nearly as well-known as the more glamorous WNBA stars or many of her Olympic teammates, Griffith's relentless inside play and hard-nosed attitude have defined the Monarchs and their roster of relative unknowns.

Coach John Whisenant's game plan is built on defensive suffocation, with the 35-year-old Griffith and eight-year Portuguese veteran Ticha Penicheiro leading the way in three mostly superb finals games. *AP*

Booters pick Ronaldinho best of 2005

RONALDINHO AFP

LONDON — BARCELONA'S gifted Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho was elected the first FIFPro world player of the year on Monday from a poll of 38,000 professional players in 40 countries.

The members of the players' world association also voted in a secret ballot to choose the 2004-05 season's best team from a shortlist of 55 top names.

"It's a great honor to receive another one of these big prizes and this one is extra special because it's voted for by my fellow players," said Ronaldinho, who was voted FIFA's Player of the Year in December.

FIFPro president Gordon Taylor said: "There are no greater football critics than the players themselves.

"To be recognized by your fellow professionals from across the world is a unique honor.

"While we respect the many other football awards that are handed out I think it is special to see these results, the very first ballot among the world's players."

Featuring alongside Ronaldinho in midfield in the world team were Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane with French compatriot Claude Makelele and his Chelsea team mate Frank Lampard of England.

AC Milan, last season's Champions League runners-up, provided five players with Brazilian goalkeeper Dida and defenders Cafu, also of Brazil, as well as Italians Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta and Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko, the current European Footballer of the Year. *Reuters*

Oklahoma City hosting Hornets

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA—THE NEW Orleans Hornets, who are left without a home following Hurricane Katrina, will play one of their upcoming home schedules in Oklahoma City, American newspapers reported Monday.

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett said the Hornets reached a tentative agreement with the city to play some of their 41-game National Basketball Association home schedule at the 19,675-seat Ford Center.

It is uncertain how many games the Hornets would play in Oklahoma City. The NBA season starts Nov. 2.

The Hornets could establish a base of operations in Oklahoma City, while also keeping a smaller office in New Orleans or Baton Rouge, the Oklahomian newspaper reported. *AFP*

OLYMPIC CHAMP: Liu Xiang of China races on his way to winning the men's 110-meter hurdle event at the Yokohama Super Track and Field meet in Yokohama, Tokyo, Monday. Liu, the reigning Olympic champion, clocked 13.08 seconds. AP

Crosby unlikely hero as Yankees boost drive

NEW YORK—BUBBA CROSBY LED OFF the bottom of the ninth inning with his first home run of the season, giving the New York Yankees a dramatic 3-2 win over the Baltimore Orioles in American League play Monday night at Yankee Stadium.

Crosby's walk-off homer gave the Yankees their seventh win in their last eight games and brought New York to within a half game of the first place Boston Red Sox in the AL East, who lost to Tampa Bay.

The little-used Crosby belted a 1-0 pitch from reliever Eric DuBose (1-3) over the right-center field fence, just his second extra-base hit and fifth RBI all season.

"I thought a lot about bunting, trying to get on base and letting the big guys do their thing," Crosby said.

He was mobbed by his teammates at the plate and came back onto the field for a curtain call after getting a thunderous ovation from the sell-out crowd of 51,121.

"It's every player's dream, especially to do it here in New York with the Yankee fans. You couldn't ask for a more picture-perfect moment," Crosby said.

"I've never hit a walk-off home run ever in my whole life, even in Little League. To do it at Yankee Stadium this time of the year—when it counts—it just doesn't get any better than that."

Crosby had three of the Yankees' eight hits and also scored twice. Derek Jeter added two hits for New York, while Alex Rodriguez added an RBI single and Gary Sheffield drove in the other run with a groundout.

"Tonight was very important, after the loss yesterday (6-5 to Toronto)," said New York manager Joe Torre. *Reuters*

Team chess stakes ₱.25M

MORE THAN P250,000 is at stake in the 2005 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships being hosted by Tagaytay City, through Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, from Oct. 24-30 at the Tagaytay Sports Complex.

Over 30 teams are again expected to sign up for the National Chess Federation of the Philippines-organized tournament which Muntinlupa City dominated last year.

"We expect the cast to be bigger and the quality of competition tighter this year," said Tolentino, whose city is also hosting the chess and road race of cycling competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in November.

Details about the tournament could be obtained from NCFP project director Willy Abalos at 0921-6219898 or the NCFP office at 435-1114.

The champion team will get P100,000 while the second placer will earn P60,000. The third-placer brings home P40,000, the fourth placer P20,000 and the fifth placer P15,000.

The team that places sixth still falls in the money list with P10,000, and the seventh to 10th placers will bag P8,000, P7,000, P6,000 and P5,000, respectively.

The individual champions on all five boards will receive P3,000 each. The top 10 team finishers will also receive attractive trophies.

"We are again rolling out the red carpet for the players and officials to our city for the Inter-Cities and Municipalities," said Tolentino, who has transformed the scenic and cool city of Tagaytay as one of the leading sports havens in the country.

Tolentino's Tagaytay City team was bannered by Grandmaster Joey Antonio and International Master Richard Bitoon when it finished runner-up last year.

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN PG13
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3 (DOLBY) THE CONSTANT GARDENER
4 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD R13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) DARK WATER PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) SOUND OF THUNDER
2 (SDDS) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 GOLD (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
6 GOLD (SDDS) DARK WATER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER
8 (DOLBY STEREO) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
9 (DOLBY STEREO) BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 (DOLBY STEREO) LOVE STRUCK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 WEDDING CRASHER
2 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 THE CAVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 RED EYE
2 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHER
3 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
4 LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) VALIANT

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
4 (DTS) LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 LONG WEEKEND
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) THE CAVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 DARK WATER

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
2 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE STRUCK
5 CONSTANT GARDENER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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1 LOVE STRUCK
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Masagana CINEMA 2000
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1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2 LONGEST YARD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX) RED EYE
4 LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 SKY HIGH
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK
4 (DTS) SKELETON KEY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LONGEST YARD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
6 SOUND OF THUNDER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY) NOTE BOOK
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)
2
3
4 (DTS)

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 WEDDING CRASHER
3 (DTS) LONG WEEKEND
4 THE CAVE
5 LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LONGEST YARD
2 DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
4 LOVE STRUCK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 KAKAIBANG KARISMA
2

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Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
PERFECT CATCH 12:50 / 3:30 / 6:10 / 8:50	PERFECT CATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20	CINDERELLA MAN 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
DARK WATER 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CONSTANT GARDENER 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00	RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	LOVESTRUCK 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	❹ LOVESTRUCK 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❷ DARK WATER 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❺ THE BROS. GRIMM 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❸ LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

NCAA FINALS: GAME 2- SSC-R vs SBC Jrs. 2 pm
September 21, Wednesday CSJL VS PCU Srs 4 pm

ADMU vs UP Wom. 11:30 am - Adu vs FEU Wom. 1:30 pm
September 22 Thursday ADMU vs UE Srs 4 pm

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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JACKIE CHAN & JAYCEE CHAN
BLADE OF THE ROSE
In an evil empire ruled by women, man's last hope rises.
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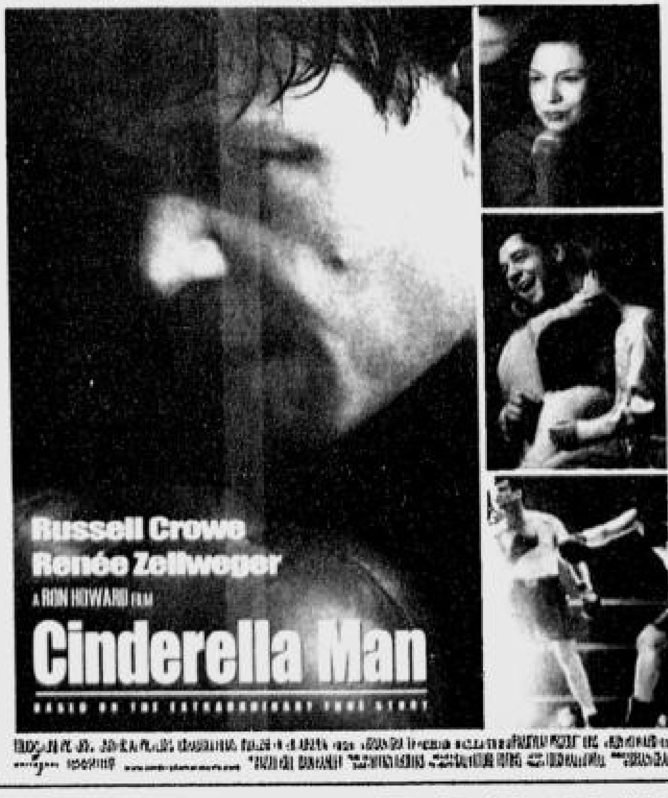
OPENS TODAY

"ABSOLUTELY THE BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR. BY FAR." Gene Shalit, THE TODAY SHOW



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Ken Tucker

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MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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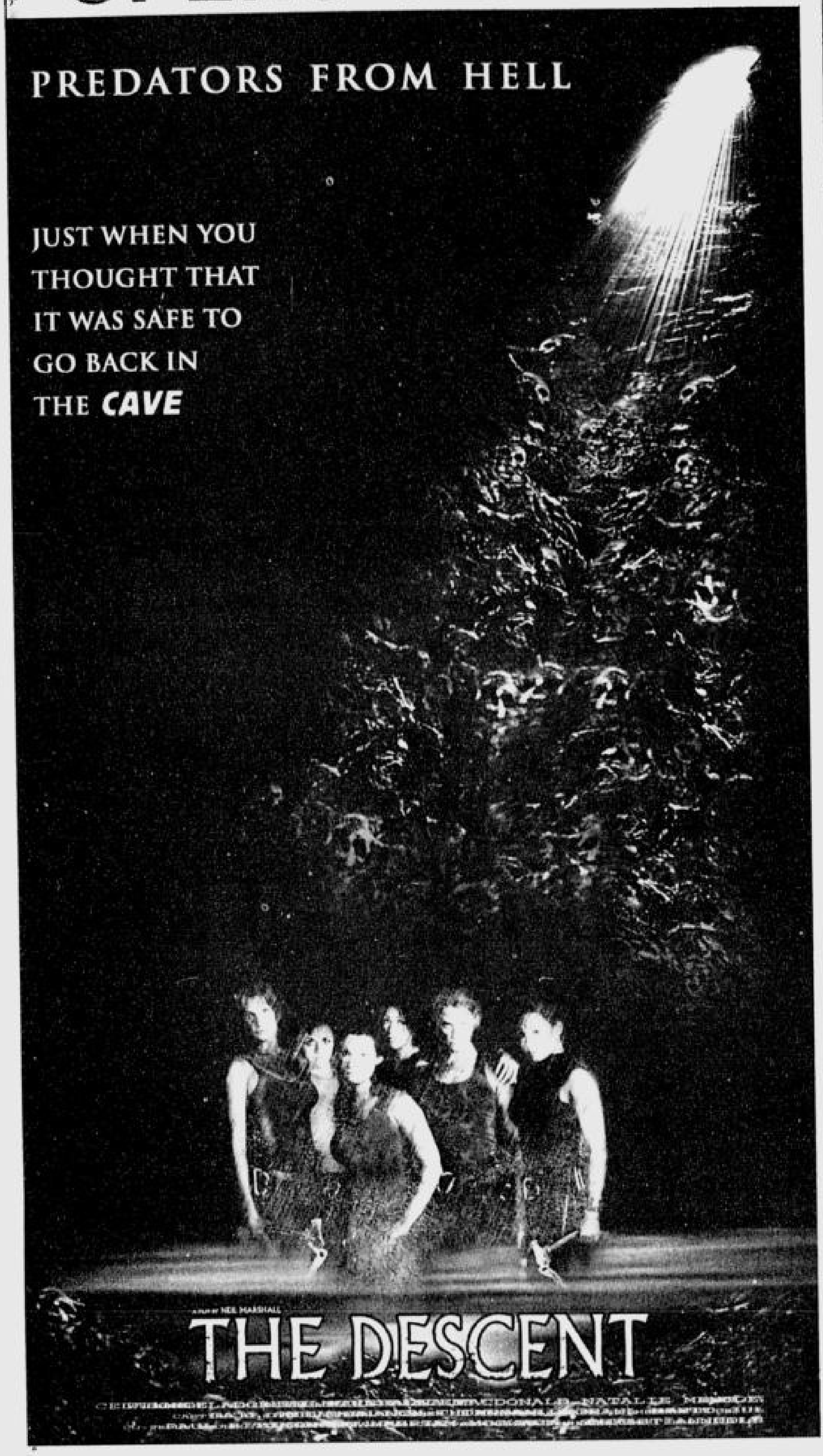
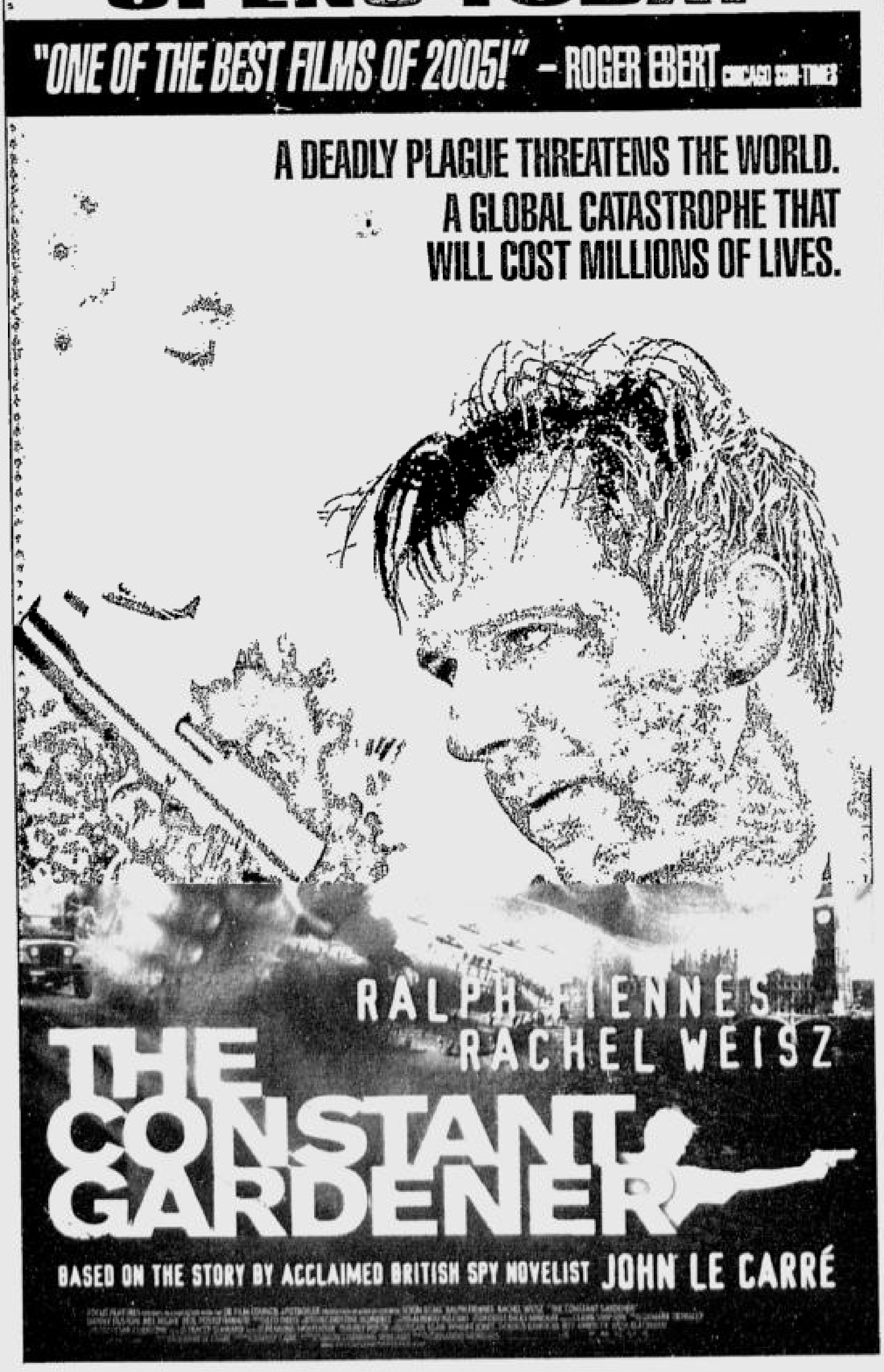

PREDATORS FROM HELL
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE CAVE
THE DESCENT

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS TODAY


"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2005!" - ROGER EBERT CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
A DEADLY PLAGUE THREATENS THE WORLD. A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE THAT WILL COST MILLIONS OF LIVES.
RALPH FIENNES
RACHEL WEISZ
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
BASED ON THE STORY BY ACCLAIMED BRITISH SPY NOVELIST JOHN LE CARRÉ

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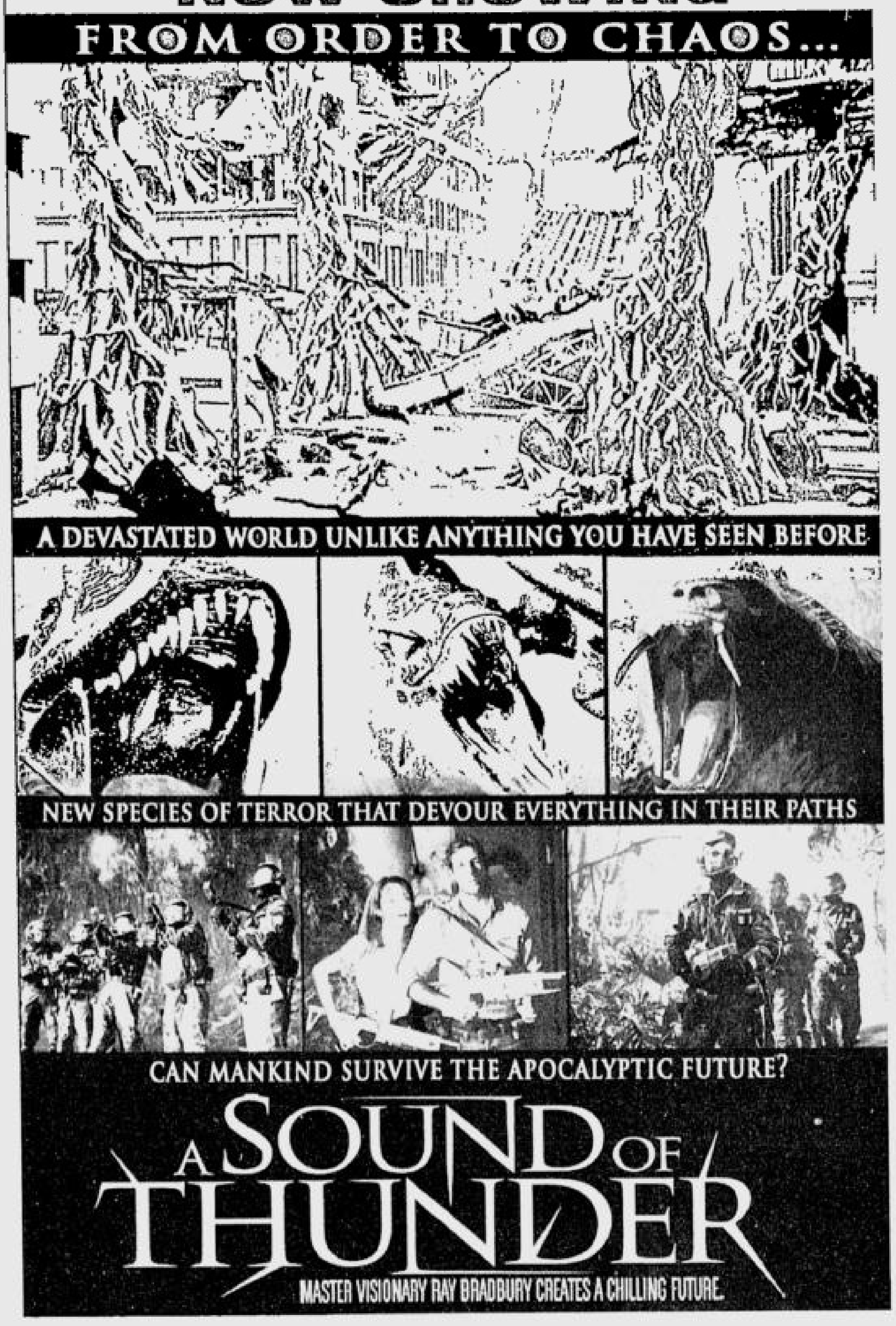
FROM ORDER TO CHAOS...
A DEVASTATED WORLD UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE
NEW SPECIES OF TERROR THAT DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS
CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THE APOCALYPTIC FUTURE?
A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

FIND OUT THE FRIGHTENING TRUTH TODAY

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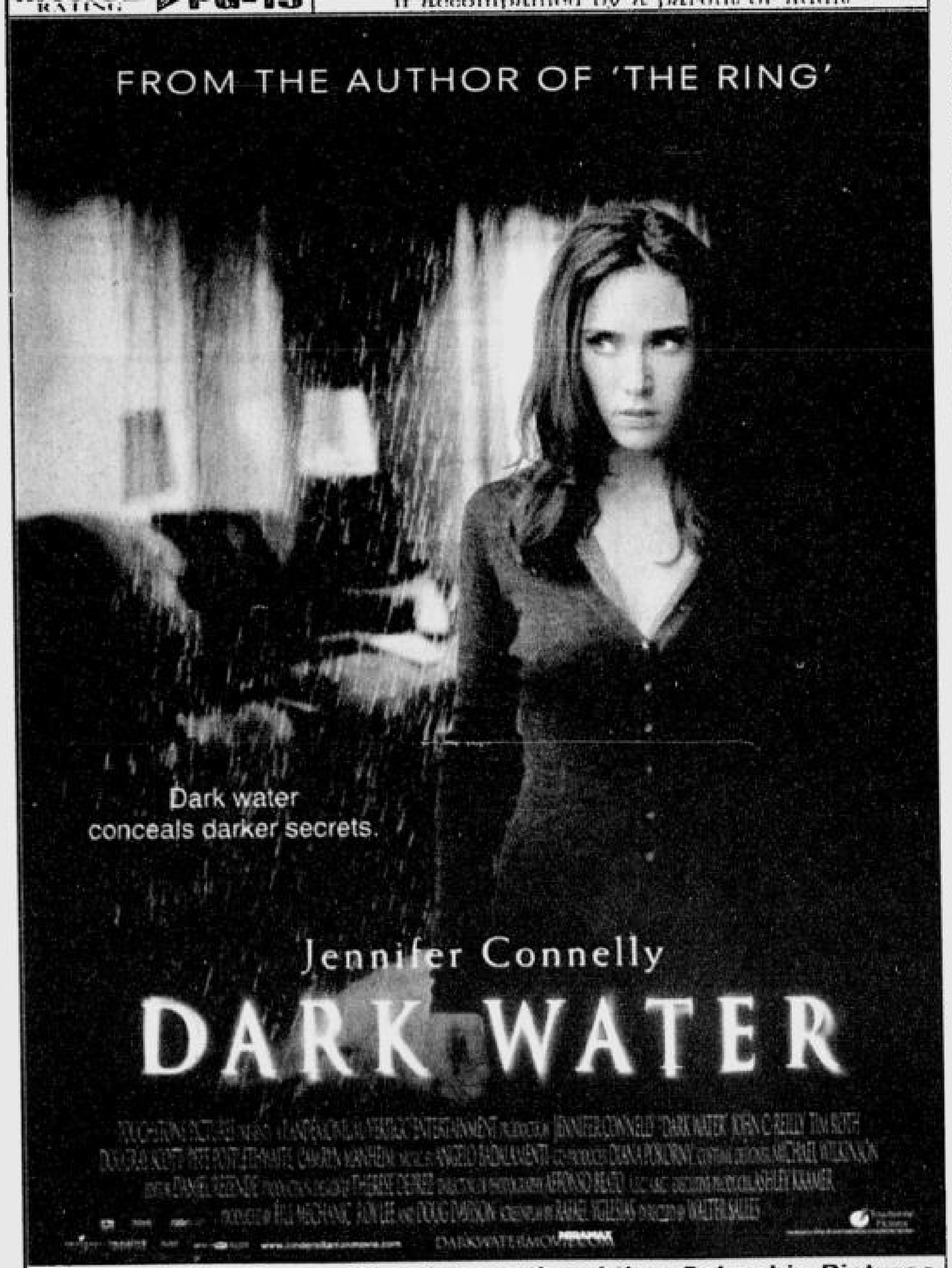
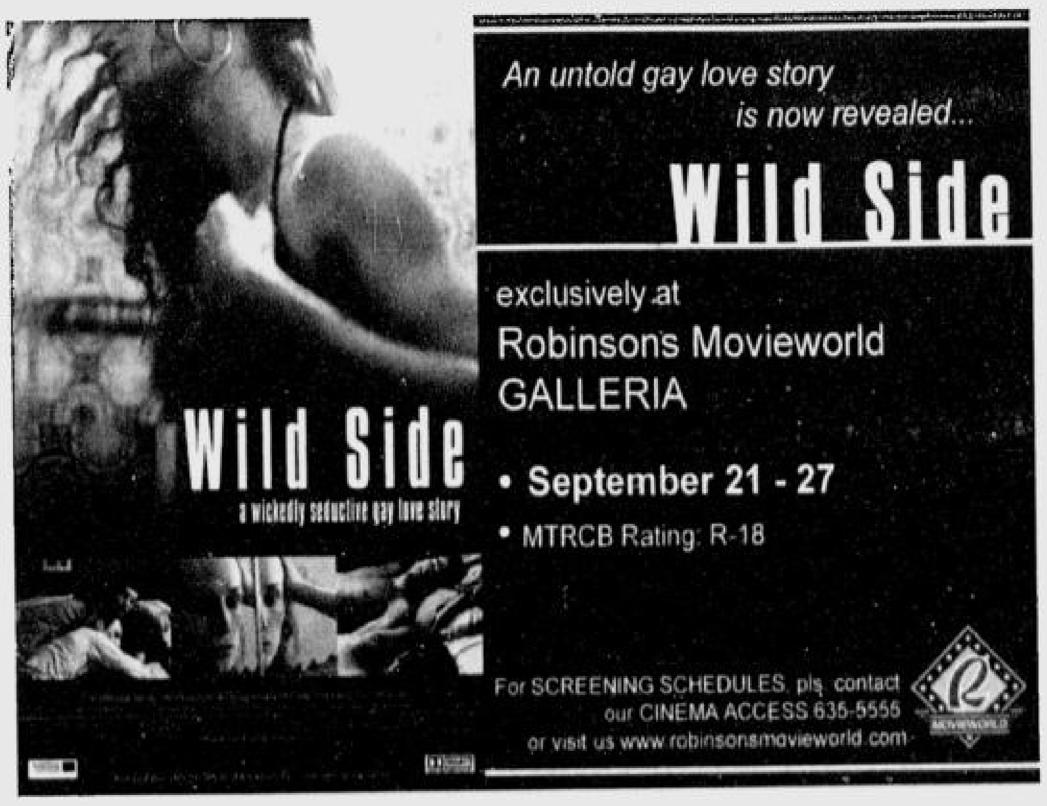

FROM THE AUTHOR OF 'THE RING'
Dark water conceals darker secrets.
Jennifer Connelly
DARK WATER

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


Wild Side
a wickedly seductive gay love story

An untold gay love story is now revealed...

Wild Side

exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

- September 21 - 27
- MTRCB Rating: R-18

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. contact our CINEMA ACCESS 635-5555 or visit us www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Annika victory on ABC

THE FINAL ROUNDS of the John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic will be aired by ABC Sports tonight and tomorrow evening beginning at 11.

Watch Annika Sorenstam defend her title and use it as a springboard to another strong finish to the US LPGA season.

Out of the eight tournaments she won last year, Sorenstam has now defended three, tied for second in another and has four left to play.

The exploits of Jennifer Rosales and Dorothy Delasin will also be shown in the $1-million tournament.

ABC-5, in partnership with ESPN, has reserved its 11 p.m. slot for golf shows and tournaments.

Meanwhile, the finale of the Thailand X-Games 2005 will be replayed today and tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. on ABC-5.

GCAP derby at San Juan

AFTER its highly successful grand opening last week, the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum, now with a bigger seating capacity of 3,000, presents the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Stag Derby today. This one-day event will feature more than 60 fights, said GCAP founder Patrick Antonio. Ready to field their prized battlebirds are Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, two-time world champ William Go, Dicky Lim, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim and Jun Topacio. For inquiries, call 7255369 and 7277086.

Palaban 3rd round today

PROVINCIAL derby champions clash anew in the third-round eliminations of Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit today. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. A whopping P1.5 million is up for grabs in this five-day stagfest being hosted by Edgar Coronel with assistance from pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Meanwhile, cockers may now bring their stags at Roligon every Sunday for screening in connection with the Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby slated on Oct. 15, 17 and 19. Call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

LGBA 7-Stag set Sept. 26

TOPNOTCH cockfighting returns at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 26, 28 and Oct. 3, via the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby," where at least 150 breeders are competing. The first batch of 75 participants face one another in the opening round (3-stag) on Sept. 26. Derby starts at noon featuring more than 110 fights. The second round is slated on Sept. 28 while the finals is on Oct. 3. Bigtime cockers from Luzon have confirmed their participation. For details, contact 0920-5851940, 9245072 and 9267808 (look for Taz Lunasco).

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CINDERELLA MAN • THX
2 DARK WATER
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 THE PERFECT CATCH
7 WILD SIDE
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 CINDERELLA MAN
LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
5 THE PERFECT CATCH
6 BLADE ROSE
7 DARK WATER

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 BLADE OF ROSE
4 DARK WATER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 THE PERFECT CATCH
7 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
8 LOVESTRUCK

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 RESERVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 RED EYE
4 THE CAVE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 SIX

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 RED EYE
3 THE CAVE
4 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 THE CAVE
4 THE CROW 4

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 RED EYE
4 THE CROW 4
5 THE CAVE
6 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0469

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 THE LONGEST YARD
6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CAVE
4 SKY HIGH

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AYALA Greenbelt

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September 30, 2005
Manila Fon De Sielo Spanish Festival Exhibit
September 30 - GB 3 Ground Lobby

Greenbelt Onstage

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Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 DARK WATER	3 BLADE OF THE ROSE	4 LAND OF THE DEAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 THX DARK WATER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RED EYE	5 CINDERELLA MAN	6 LAND OF THE DEAD	7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CONSTANT GARDENER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX LAND OF THE DEAD GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFECT CATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CONSTANT GARDENER GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX LAND OF THE DEAD	2 PERFECT CATCH		
	3 DARK WATER	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 RED EYE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 VALIANT	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

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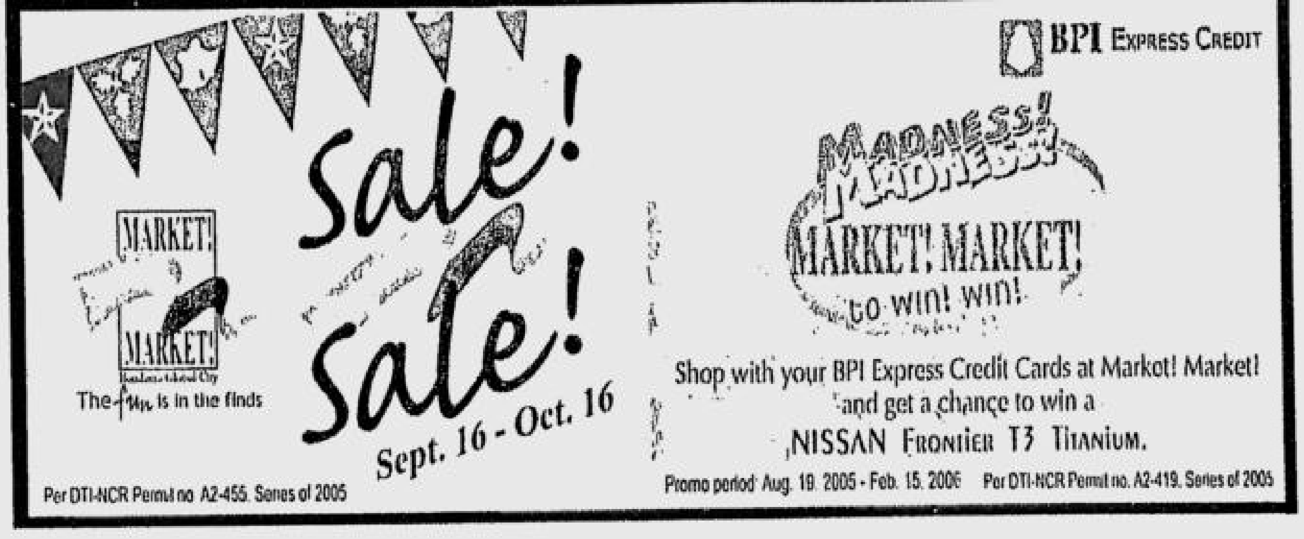
② Lovestruck
③ Constant Gardener
④ Dark Water
⑤ Perfect Catch

EVENTS! EVENTS!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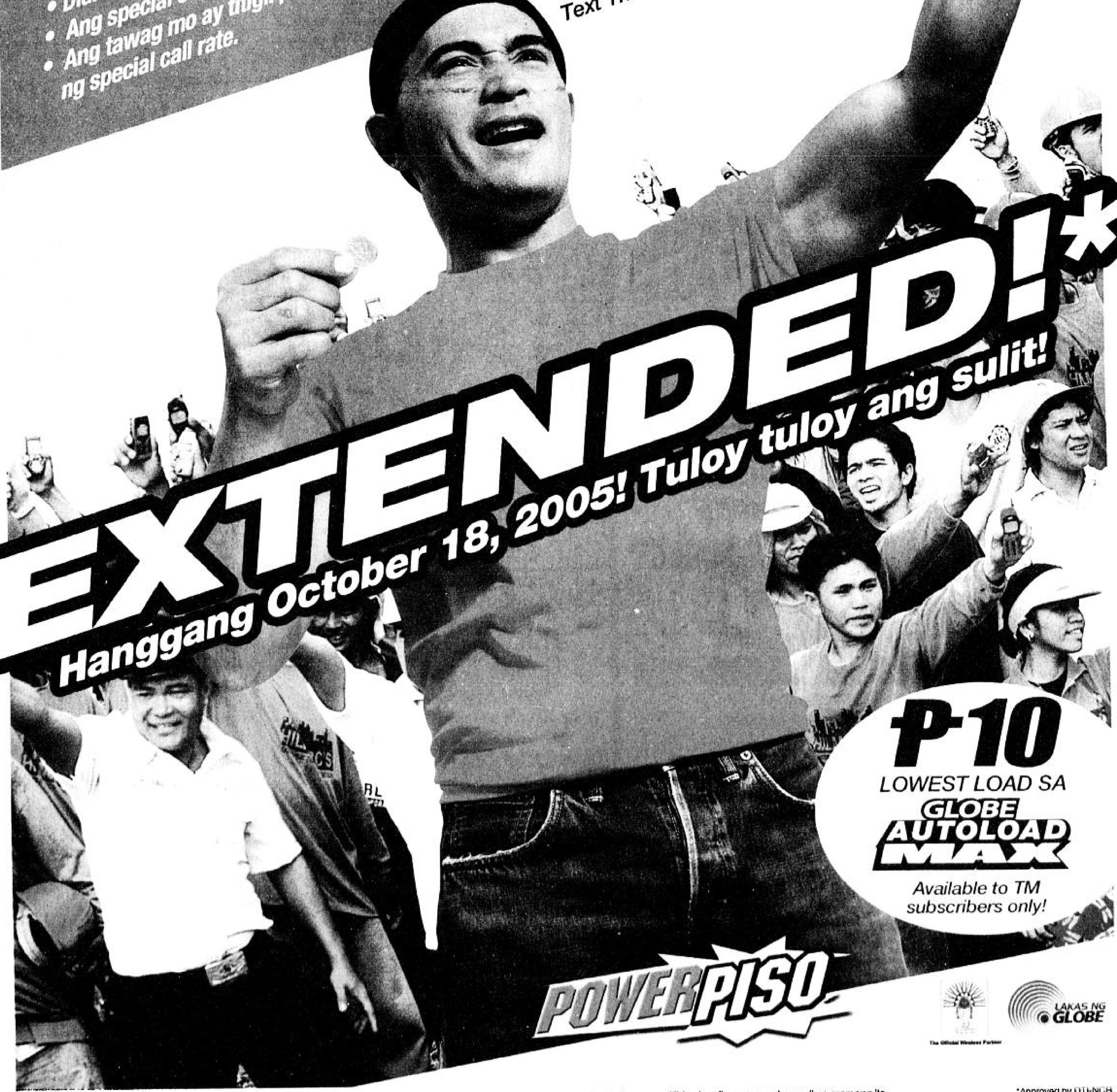

EXTENDED!*

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*Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5019 Series of 2005.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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Why Regine sang theme of an ABS-CBN show

SINGER Regine Velasquez, who is identified with GMA 7, sang the theme song for "Citizen Pinoy," a show produced by ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel (TFC), based in the United States

The show opened its second season last weekend in the US (premier episode airs in Manila Sept. 24 on ABS-CBN News Channel or ANC) with Regine's distinctive voice in the background crooning "May Pag-Asa," composed by another major GMA 7 talent, Ogie Alcasid.

Darling de Jesus, AVP for Talk and Variety, said GMA 7 "knew about and respected" Regine's "agreement" with lawyer Michael Gurfinkel, one of "Citizen Pinoy's" hosts. De Jesus said it wasn't even necessary for the singer to ask the Kapuso network's permission.

Gurfinkel is the immigration lawyer who came to the singer's rescue after the US Embassy cancelled her visa and banned her for life, for alleged alien smuggling.

REGINE Velasquez, "Citizen Pinoy" host Michael Gurfinkel and the composer, Ogie Alcasid, also a major GMA 7 talent

Depressed

Although it happened in August 2000, Regine publicly discussed the incident only on the first episode of "Citizen Pinoy's" first season last year.

She was depressed for a whole week, she said on the program, refusing to see anyone especially when her hair started to fall. And all because she told the consuls at the embassy that she personally knew a girl who was to work as production assistant for her scheduled US tour, "R2K."

Regine was informed by the embassy officials that the girl in fact meant to work for someone else upon reaching the States.

"Truth was, I met her for the first time at the embassy," Regine said. She wasn't thinking; it was just standard procedure to be assigned an assistant for such a big tour, she pointed out.

While awaiting her turn with the consul, the singer recounted, she had been called to another room. "I thought I was going to get special treatment... like, they were perhaps going to give me coffee, or something. An official came and questioned me and the questions took a weird turn. And then I was led to a table with a typewriter."

When at last she left the premises, her visa bore the stamp "Cancelled with prejudice." She had also been told she could never go to the US again.

Regine said Gurfinkel "repaired" the mess after a slew of other people tried to "help."

"It was very difficult," she said. "I had never cancelled a show in my entire career. To cancel six broke my heart. I wondered how that could happen to me. I never worked on a tourist visa, unlike some other entertainers. I was always careful about that because my greatest fear was to be arrested and detained in a foreign country."

Plus, talk circulated that she had "done that" (alien smuggling) before, with the help of her father-manager, Gerry. "That was just too much," she lamented.

First thing that Michael told her was to keep quiet and not to try her case in media, Regine recalled. "I trusted him completely."

To learn from

Gurfinkel added, "To media's credit, they respected Regine's privacy. And Regine herself was very cooperative."

A more confident and an unusually animated Regine was only too willing to tell the whole story on the show—"for others to learn from." Personally, she said, it taught her to "be aware of my surroundings... to ask questions about

WHY REGINE/ A2-2

OPENING TODAY

The Constant Gardener

Stars Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz
Directed by Fernando Meirelles

Roger Ebert, in his Sept. 1 review for the Chicago-Sun Times, wrote: "They meet as strangers who plunge at once into sudden sex. They catch their breath, marry, and begin to learn about each other. Justin is an official in the British government. Tessa is an activist. She goes to Africa with Justin, her motives unclear in his mind, and witnesses what she thinks is murder in an African hospital. Then she is murdered at a crossroads, along with Arnold, her African driver... 'The Constant Gardener' begins with a strong, angry story, and peoples it with actors who let it happen to them, instead of rushing ahead to check off the surprises. It seems solidly grounded in its Kenyan locations; like 'City of God,' it feels organically rooted. Like many Le Carre stories, it begins with grief and proceeds with sadness toward horror. Its closing scenes are as cynical about international politics and commerce as I can imagine. I would like to believe they are an exaggeration, but I fear they are not. This is one of the year's best films."

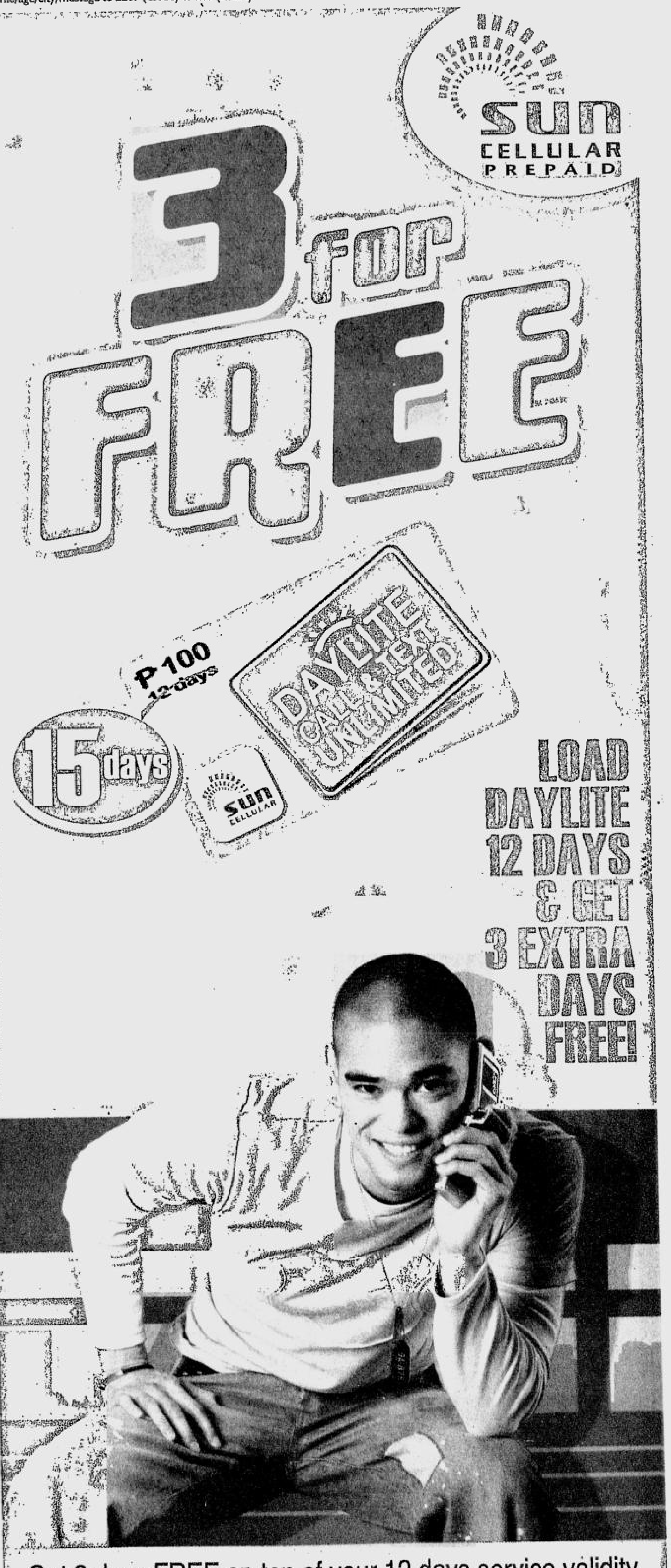
Perfect Catch (released in US as Fever Pitch)

Stars Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon
Directed by Bobby and Peter Farrelly

Peter Bradshaw, in his Aug. 12 review for The Guardian wrote: "It's from the Farrelly brothers, on very MOR form with an Americanization and feelgoodization of 'Fever Pitch,' Nick Hornby's memoir of football obsession—originally filmed by David Evans in 1997 with Colin Firth. For Arsenal and their 1989 league triumph, read Boston Red Sox winning the 2004 World Series.

Jimmy Fallon plays the hapless Boston baseball nut who dates hotshot exec Drew

OPENING/ A2-2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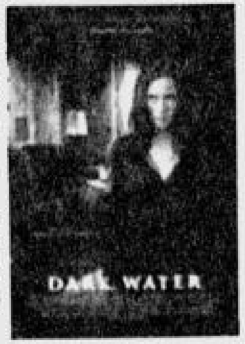
THE CONSTANT GARDENER

Constant Gardener



Dark Water

Land of the Dead

DREW BARRYMORE
JIMMY FALLON
THE PERFECT CATCH

The Perfect Catch

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South Border
AT LARGE
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TRUMPETS
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SM movietime

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1 CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00FS/12:30MF/03:15/06:05
08:20LFS/09:00LMF11:15END

2 PERFECT CATCH
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

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1 BROTHERS GRIMM
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END

2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
11:30FS/11:40MF/01:38/03:36/05:34/07:32
09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

3 CINDERELLA MAN
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DARK WATER
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM
7 LAND OF THE DEAD
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 THE CAVE
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
7 DARK WATER
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 THE CAVE
12 RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DARK WATER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 PERFECT CATCH
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DARK WATER
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 THE CAVE
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 DARK WATER
9 CONSTANT GARDENER
10 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DARK WATER

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DARK WATER
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
4 DARK WATER

SM SAN LAZARO
1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 RED EYE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 DARK WATER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 THE CAVE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE CAVE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SKY HIGH
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 LONGEST YARD
4 VALIANT

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RED EYE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 VALIANT
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 SKY HIGH
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CAVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

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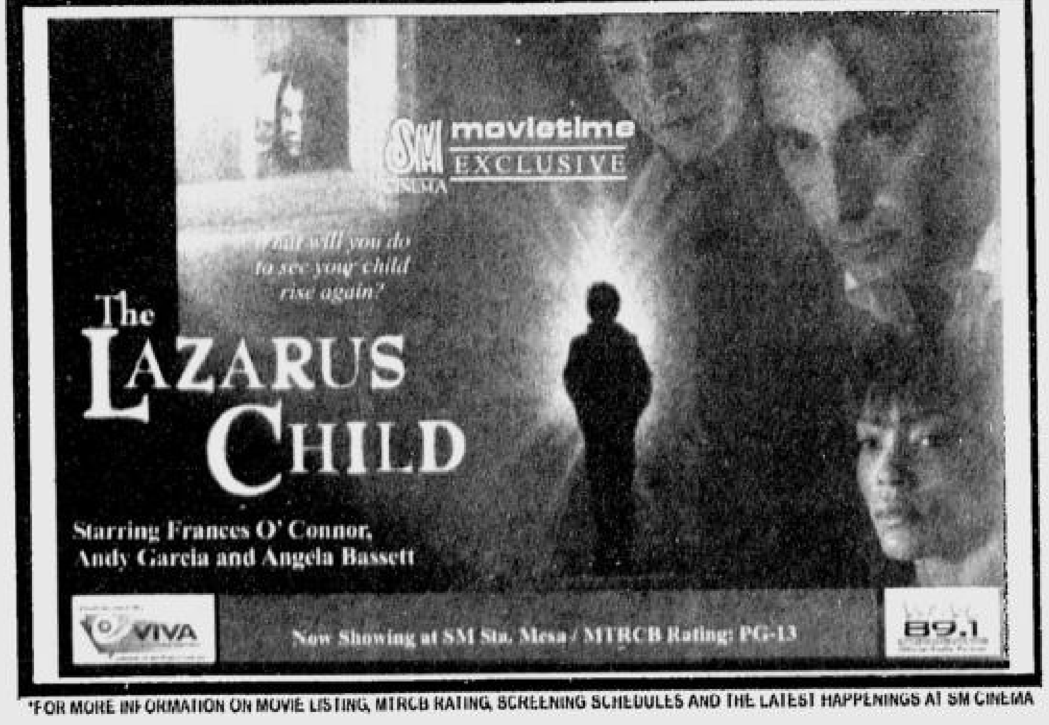
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③ THE CONSTANT GARDENER
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4:00pm Kroko
7:00pm I Love to Love
10:00pm A Man Not Wanted

September 25
1:00pm Twinni
4:00pm Millions
7:00pm Extranjeras
10:00pm Faithless

September 26
4:00pm Twinni
7:00pm Step by Step
10:00pm Villa des Roses

September 27
4:00pm Buttoners
7:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
10:00pm The Spanish Apartment

September 28
4:00pm A Man Not Wanted
7:00pm Dying To Go Home
10:00pm Kroko

September 29
1:00pm I Love to Love
4:00pm Faithless
7:00pm A Man Not Wanted
10:00pm Extranjeras

September 30
1:00pm Villa Des Roses
4:00pm Step by Step
7:00pm The Spanish Apartment
10:00pm Buttoners

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10:00pm I Love to Love

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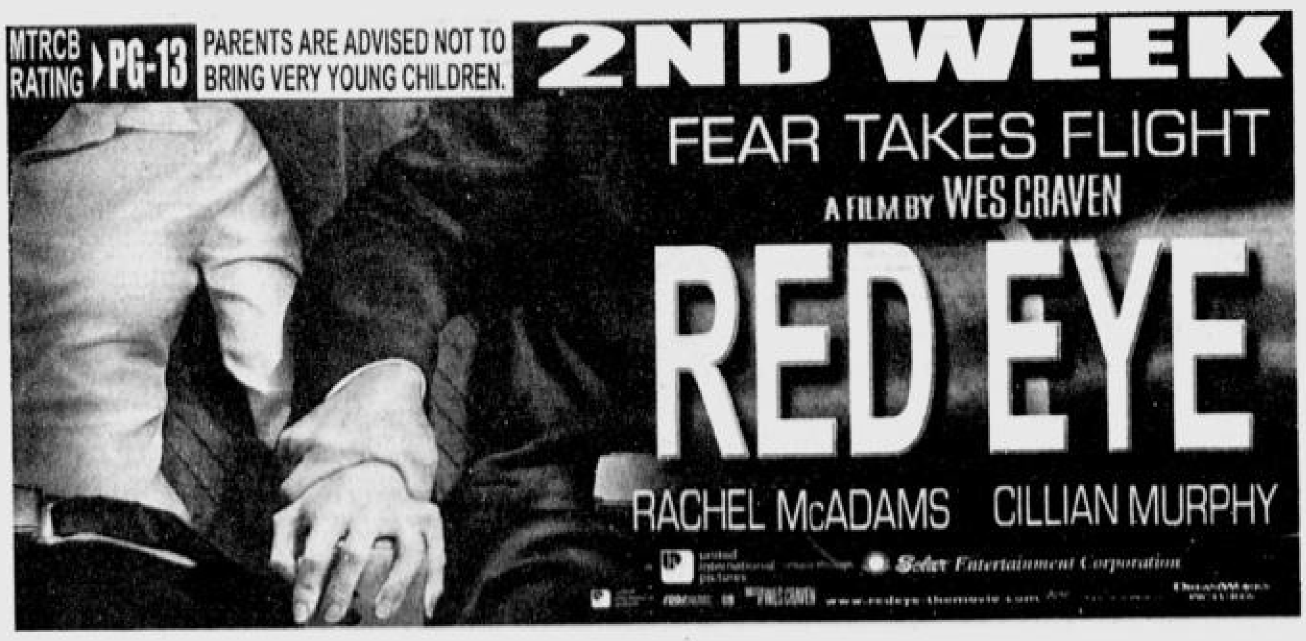
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OPENING TODA

From page A2-1

Barrymore, and has to choose between the woman and the team he loves. Barrymore, as ever, has easygoing charm. Fallon, with his closed and unexpressive face, is less attractive."

Land of the Dead

Stars Simon Baker, John Leguizamo, Dennis Hopper
Directed by George A. Romero

Mark McClure posted this review on www.iwantmy450back.com: "Imagine a world where 99 percent of the population is mentally retarded. And they can make you retarded by biting you. So you live in a dystopian society that serves the needs of the rich while crushing the poor, whose fate is eternal poverty or mental retardation... You occasionally leave your city to scavenge cities infested with the mentally handicapped for any food that they won't eat, constantly trying to distract them just like how you distract that one guy at church by pointing out shiny things. You see, that guy at church, he wants to give you a hug, and so do the legions of the mentally retarded, and neither will let go until they either get distracted by

JENNIFER Connelly in "Dark Water"

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Why Regine san

From page A2-1

things that may affect me, to demand details, and to never vouch for anyone I don't know."

Her intrepid lawyer had successfully argued that banning the singer permanently from the US would be a "tremendous tragedy" for the Filipinos there who experienced "a taste of home" whenever they watched her perform.

For him, needless to say, she wanted to do more.

And so, shortly after her guesting on the program—when Gurfinkel's Filipino wife Millie asked if she could possibly ... Regine readily agreed to sing its new theme song.

Almost deported

Another Filipino performer who need never be asked twice to lend her time and talent to "Citizen Pinoy" is singer-comedienne Fe de los Reyes, now based in California. Fe has a "bit role" in the second season opener on Sunday, dramatizing the dos and don'ts during visa interviews.

Like Regine, Fe told her story for the first time on the show last year. The episode was titled, "Deportation: No Laughing Matter."

The comedienne became a "Candidate for Removal" after she was denied the political asylum that she had sought. "I was so stupid to have trusted a paralegal," she said. She was on the verge of tears in many parts, especially when the conversation drifted to her father, who died here in the Philippines while she was "still a TNT—*tago nang tago* (out of status)."

She had gone to the US with her husband and three daughters in 1993. "I had an American Dream," Fe said.

Again like Regine, she found Gurfinkel in the nick of time in 1999. "I did a show with Nonoy Zuniga in LA. He told me about Michael."

Gurfinkel noted that Fe "had this compulsion to talk." In this Sunday's episode, she depicts a visa interviewee who says too much and, as a direct result, ruins her chances altogether.

TFC's bet

Maritess Militar, ABS-CBN Global senior manager for Production and Events, said "Citizen Pinoy" was the result of a focus group discussion that determined the kind of show that TFC subscribers would welcome most. Candidates included a West Coast variety show and yet another reality talent search à la "American Idol."

The decision was practically a no-

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Walter Salles

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Patrick Leung and Corey

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and happiness. Like that
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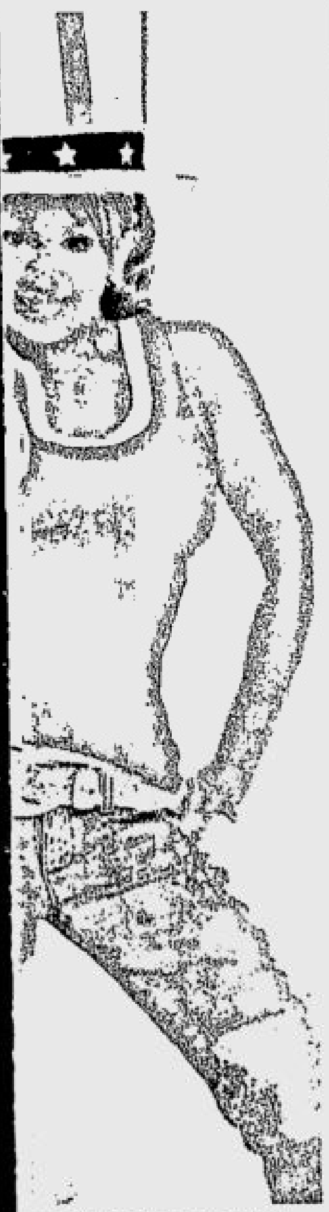

eyes: "I had an American

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les of their own.
's tagline is, "Your passport to
information." It was clear
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—who doubles as "Citizen
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uld be a hit. It did not disap-
ckly became one of TFC's top
terms of viewership,"
inoy" airs on TFC Sundays at
replays Mondays at 4 a.m.;
USA Fridays at 8 p.m. (Pacif-
Time). In the Philippines, the
turdays at 11 a.m. on ANC.
set to do a concert series at
ater Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and
9 and 10.

Marty, JD and MiG in three-way fight for 'Rock Star' title

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST SEPT. 8, WE TRIED TO ANALYZE THE chances of success of the four remaining finalists in the "Rock Star" competition. Last week, the INXS jurors themselves did pretty much the same thing. What were our points of convergence and divergence?

Like us, the INXS band members worried that **JD** was too mercurial and unpredictable to be a reliable co-worker in the band. They raved about his "riveting" presence onstage, but fretted that he could later inadvertently get himself in controversies that wouldn't be good for the band.

As for **Suzie**, they flat-out declared that she had the best singing voice among all the finalists, and they were really impressed by her ability to claw her way up from the tilt's bottom rungs, and end up as the competition's only surviving female singer. But they also worried about Suzie's inability to feel comfortable about all the media attention that rockers must contend with.

Marty was praised for his standout performances and rock charisma, but he may have rubbed the INXS jurors the wrong way when he "advised" them on the new musical direction that the band should take.

Some would call that "confidence," but the INXS bandmates may have interpreted it as chutzpah. So, they may not be totally comfortable about working with Marty, either.

That leaves "our" MiG. Until last Wednesday, he was the only "Rock Star" finalist who hadn't been in the tilt's bottom three since it started some months ago. And, two weeks ago, he pulled in the greatest number of votes, along with Marty.

And yet, the INXS bandmates don't seem to be completely convinced that MiG would make a hot rock star. We get the feeling that they think he's too nice and grounded to excite rock fans.

And his extensive experience in theater also throws them off. That's why MiG felt he had to point out that he'd done his share of rock band performances, including being the lead of his own group, named "MiGnition."

Still, an INXS bandmate equivocated, "He looks like a rock star—but, *is* he?" So, MiG had to weigh in again with another persuasive argument: Throughout the competition, he's been getting the most votes, so that means the public believes he should be INXS' new solo star. Would *that* finally allay the bandmates' fears?

Well, last Thursday, the INXS jurors decided to let go of Suzie, despite her having the best rock voice in the bunch, and chose Marty, JD and MiG as the "Rock Star" search's "final-final three," who will slug it out for the INXS band's ultimate nod today (Star World, starting at 9:30 a.m.).

So, it looks like we were right in predicting that Marty and MiG would end up in the grand finals. Who'll emerge as the winner? That's much more difficult to predict, since Marty, MiG and JD are all fine singers and charismatic performers, and any of them would do the INXS band proud.

In fact, they're so good that we hope the INXS will hire two of them—or even all three—as soloists! Are we dreaming? We'll find out in a few hours.

Nyoy Volante

AT 8 p.m. on Sept. 24, Nyoy Volante pays musical tribute to Filipino seafarers by way of a concert at Araneta Coliseum. The show also promotes SmartLink, a satellite-based calling service. Also performing are **Ogie Alcasid, Aiza Seguerra** and **Regine Velasquez.**

Lou Veloso

AT 6 p.m. tomorrow, **Lou Veloso** stars in the premiere performance of twin bill, "Truman" and "Taong Grasa" at the Open-Air Auditorium in Rizal Park. The Gantimpala production is directed by **Tony Espejo**. The monologues were originally written by **Jose Javier Reyes** and **Anton Juan**, respectively.

Boobtube booboos

HOST: Why are you sticking to your style of investigation until now, despite the criticism that you have been receiving?

Guest: Because, contrary to the criticism, it's already tried and tested!

(Yum, yum!)

* * *

Host: Who to you is the most improved female contestant in this competition?

Guest: (Name of contestant.)

Host: What makes her such a standout? Go ahead, tell her!

Guest: (Name of contestant), before, you lacked personality. But now, you really stand out, because your beauty screams at a person.

(Eeeek!)

* * *

Host: Where is the Euro now used as the general currency?

Guest: As far as I know, all over the Europinion Union!

(Well, that's your—opinion!)

* * *

Host: Why do you say the last elections were anomalous?

Guest: Because never in the plans of the framers of our constitution did they imagine a reelectionist president standing for reelection!

(—*Kulit!*)

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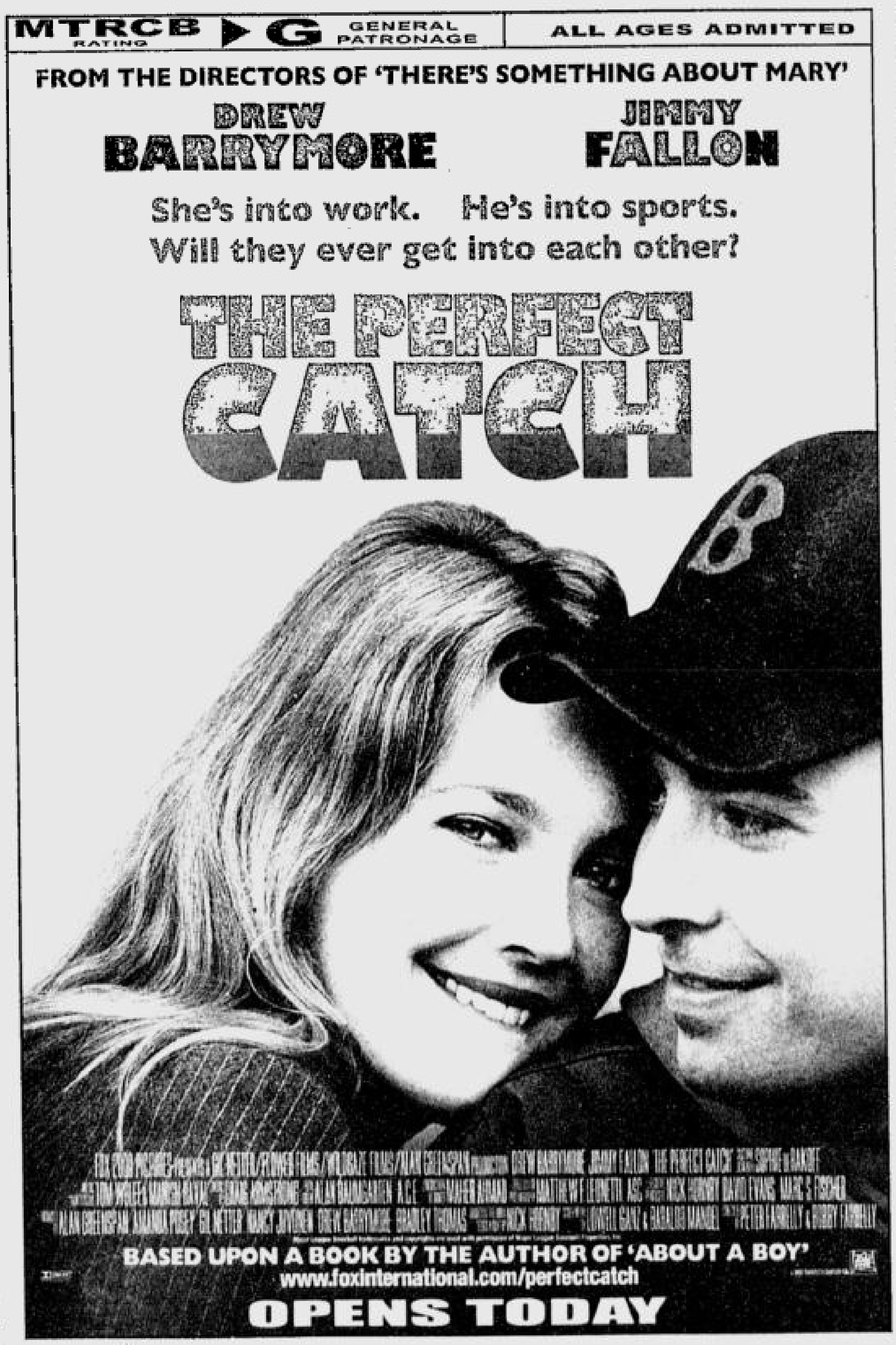
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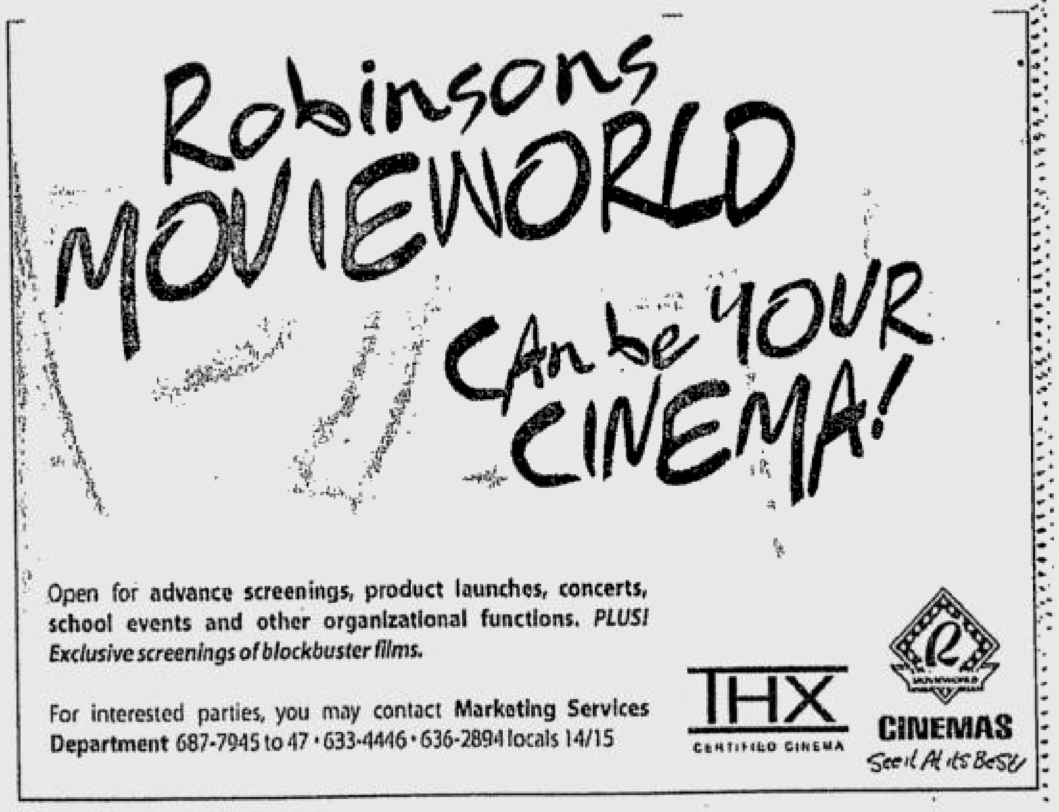
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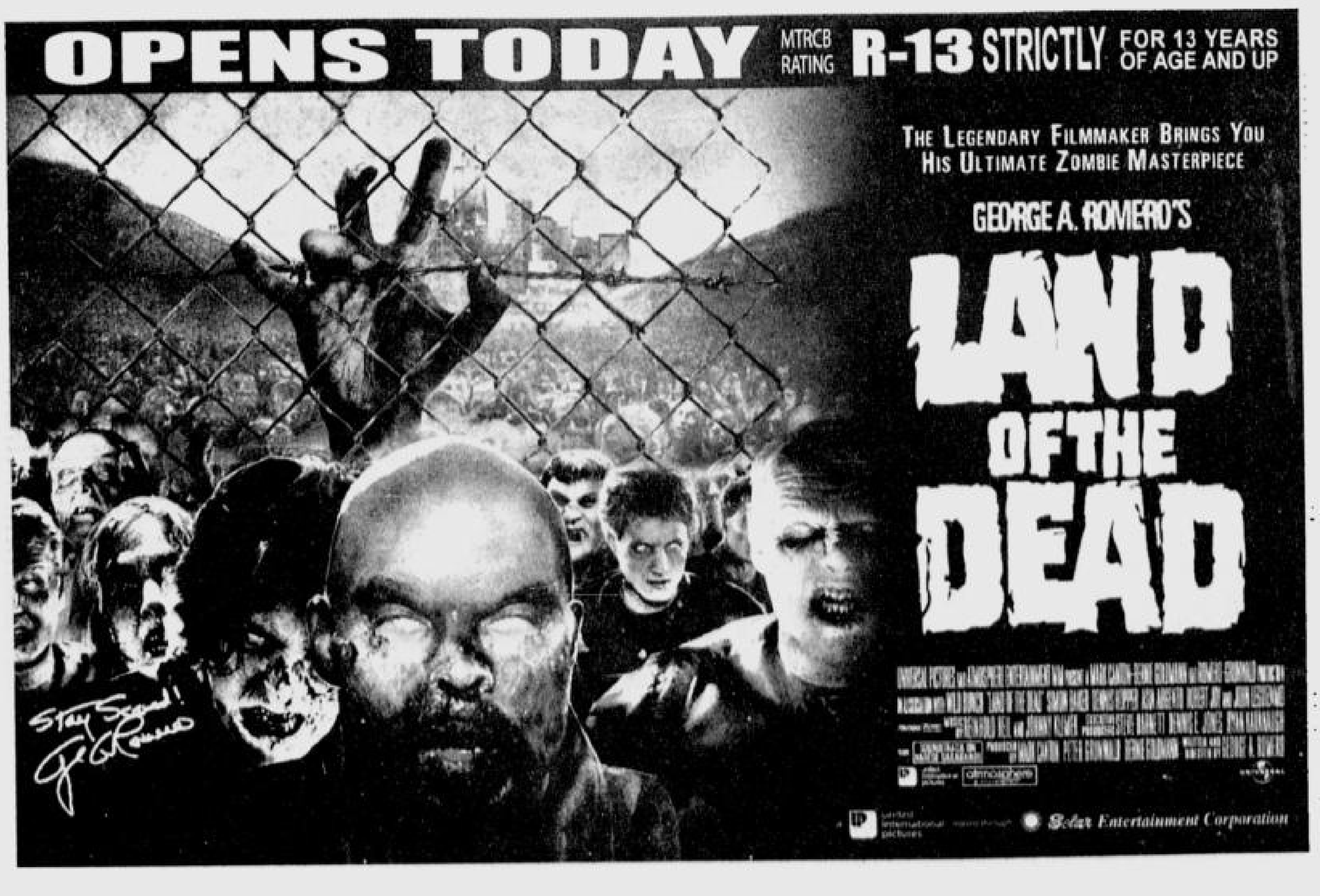
1	2	3
CONSTANT GARDENER PG13	CINDERELLA MAN PG13	DARK WATER PG13
LAND OF THE DEAD R13	BROTHERS GRIMM PG13	PERFECT CATCH GP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ENTERTAINMENT

5 last calls for a swinging musical

EVEN IF YOU'VE SEEN THE MOVIE, WATCHING "Footloose," the play, is a far different experience. It indulges the senses with live music and kinetic dance sequences. It is, after all, the story of a city boy who moves to a small town where dancing is forbidden.

Having nothing else to do in such a boring town, Ren McCormack (played by Jay-R) encourages other teenagers to lobby for the abolition of the oppressive anti-dance law. This meant challenging the local minister who sponsored the law, and who just happens to be the father of the girl he loves.

The dance numbers and live band music—"Let's Hear It For The Boy," "Holding Out For A Hero," and of course, "Footloose"— are more than enough reasons to catch the last three shows on Sept. 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater, with matinee shows on Sept. 24 and 25 at 3 p.m. Call 8919999 or 6354478.

Hotlegs at Club Mwah!

After their highly successful dance concert, "Hotlegs... In The Flesh," at Onstage Theater in 2002, Hotlegs goes to Club Mwah! starting tonight, and then every Wednesday until Oct. 19.

Title of the two-hour show is "Funk-A Delic." Expectedly, it will be hip, edgy, full of energy, an eye candy feast, and absolutely fun.

Direction is by Floy Quintos, lighting by John Batalla. Choreography by Charles Thompson, Nancy Crowe and Christine Blando.

Today

REtroSPECT at R&B Metrowalk Ortigas

Rachel Alejandro at Ratsky Tomas Morato

South Border with K24 at Suburbia

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig, Mon David and Sandra Lim at Merk's

RJ at Discovery Suites, Ortigas.

Side A at Tavern on the Square

Dawn Bande at Bonfire Grill, Marikina Riverbanks Mall; 8:30 p.m.

K and the Boxers at Klownz Araneta

Romy Jorolan at Sky Lounge Music Bar, Diamond Hotel

Tomorrow

Faith Cuneta in "One: The World Tour" concert at the Music Museum

REtroSPECT at Hard Rock Café, Makati

REtroSPECT

May pasalubong ka na ba?
Jollibee
Drive Thru

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Laura Jean
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ABC

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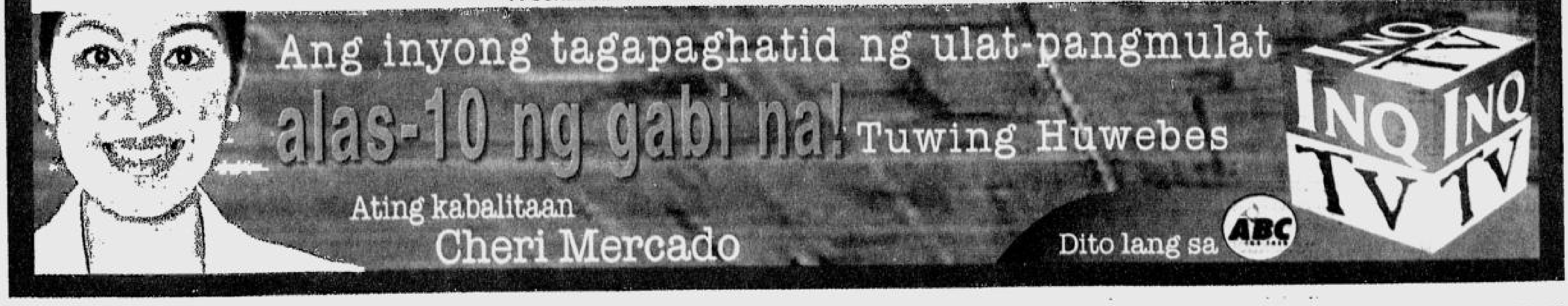
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Asian X-Games Thailand				Sentro	Brunei Cup					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Navy Medicine At War	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Japan Video Topics	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepards Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Burned	Whatever Things	MTV Pop Inc		Newlyweds	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Diyes		Diary Of Jesse McCartney	MTV Lokal	Wild N' Out	Boiling Points	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN			Major League Baseball						2005 WPBA Cuetec Cues Southeast Classic		Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool Masters '04 Holland		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports			Boxing: Hopkins vs. Taylors						FIVB World Grand Prix '05				Sports Desk	Phil. 9-Ball Open 2005				WNBA Game Finals	
Cinemax	The Brides Of Dracula			Saving Emily			The Survivors Club (5:45 PM)		20,000 League Under The Sea			Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines				Tropical Snow (10:50PM)			
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Agency II		Murder Without Conviction			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unitalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Tech		Mysterious Hanging Coffins Of China		Last Mysteries Of Titanic				Technocops		Battlegroup		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showreal Asia		Going To More Extremes		Sea Hunters		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Showreal Asia		Going To Extremes: The Silk Route	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	Cow At The Moo-vies	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Four Eyes		My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Naturally Sadie/ All Grown Up/ Viewer's Choice					All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	More Child Stars Of The 80's		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Rockstar		J.A.G.		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Contender			Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			The Freshman (3:45 PM)				The Monster Squad			Patch Adams				Looney Tunes: Back In Action			Sex And The City 86: One	Sex And The City 87: Let There Be Light (11:05PM)	Batman Forever (11:40PM)
Star Movies				Solaris			Storm Catcher (6:40 PM)				Anatomy (7:20 PM)			The Vault			Wicker Park (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Operating Sampay Bakod				Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso				Mistah			Persona	Kapag Iginuhit ang Hatol ng Puso (9:15 PM)				Rizal Sa Dapitan	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation/ Deep Prayer	The Virutes: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

PREPARE A PITCHER BEFORE THE MOVIE.
NESTEA
Plunge into the MIX
All-out refreshment with 100% RDA Vitamin C in every ice-cold pitcher. Make sure you don't run out, mom!

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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PLDT buying Dream Satellite

Price set at $22M, inclusive of debts

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG Distance Telephone Co. is buying Philippine Multi-Media System Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV, from Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco for $22 million or about P1.23 billion, INQUIRER sources said.

The sources said Cojuangco, former owner and president of PLDT, had accepted the offer of the telecom giant because he needed the money to prop up his other investments, especially Associated Broadcasting Corp., which operates Channel 5.

"Both parties have agreed on the valuation. It is just a matter of preparing the documents and affixing their signatures," said a source.

Another source said Cojuangco's group had agreed to a much lower price than what it originally asked for after PLDT agreed to absorb the debts of Philippine Multi-Media System.

Cojuangco's asking price, according to an informed source, was $56 million. But PLDT offered only $25 million. PLDT's offer was further cut down to $22 million after factoring in the debts, mainly of Dream Satellite, that would

PLDT BUYING/ B5

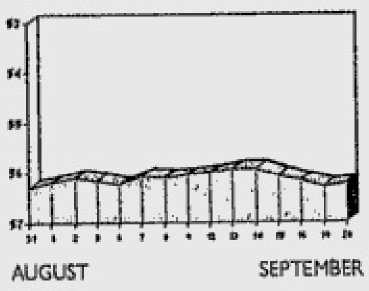
WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: Aguirre's unaccounted-for billions /B3

Gov't to bid out $867-M LRT I extension /B12

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱56.235 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2005

¥111.30 = $1

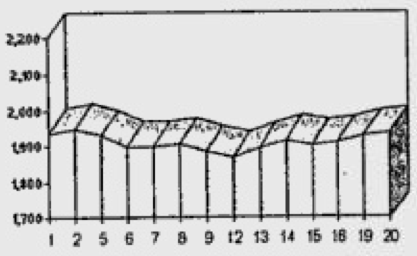
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2005

GOLD: $470.70-471.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 20, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Market up .28%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.28 percent higher as Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) lifted an otherwise lackluster market, dealers said.

Trade was subdued with investors wary over a possibility the central bank will hike interest rates to head off inflation and an unresolved opposition legal challenge to the government's expanded value-added tax (VAT) law, they added.

MARKET/ B3

For pre-need plan holders, a bitter pill to swallow

By Daxim L. Lucas and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE SNOWBALLING TROUBLES OF THE pre-need industry have plan holders worried about their hard-earned investments.

Many are concerned if the cure being prescribed for the ailing 30-year-old industry can still save it. More importantly, they worry if they can still get their money back.

This year alone, three major pre-need firms have taken the route towards regulator-assisted rehabilitation—Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), Platinum Plans Philippines, and recently, College Assurance Plans Philippines Inc. (CAP).

PPI asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to allow it to suspend payment and go through rehabilitation after running out of cash to service future claims. Platinum also asked the court to be allowed to keep its business running since it has plans to branch out into related fields like marketing.

Both firms face stiff opposition from plan holders who believe that company officials are trying to dodge their commitments to clients—a charge the companies deny.

For the pre-need firms, survival comes at a high price and it is becoming even doubly difficult to convince the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) about the viability of their plans to stay afloat.

Clutching at straws

What will make a rehabilitation plan work?

SEC commission secretary Gerard Lukban said the biggest consideration is the infusion of new capital into a pre-need company.

"When a company goes to court and asks for this relief, the court will have to decide whether this company is entitled to it," Lukban said. "What they will consider is solvency. Is this company worth salvaging?"

Lukban stressed that the SEC is not out to kill the pre-need industry, contrary to claims of the troubled firms that regulators keep shooting down rehabilitation proposals in court.

"The big factor there is the infusion of new capital or they could study venturing into something more profitable," Lukban said. "The SEC also has to be convinced that the money is coming in. Every company in trouble deserves to be rehabilitated but their efforts to seriously implement that rehabilitation is the key."

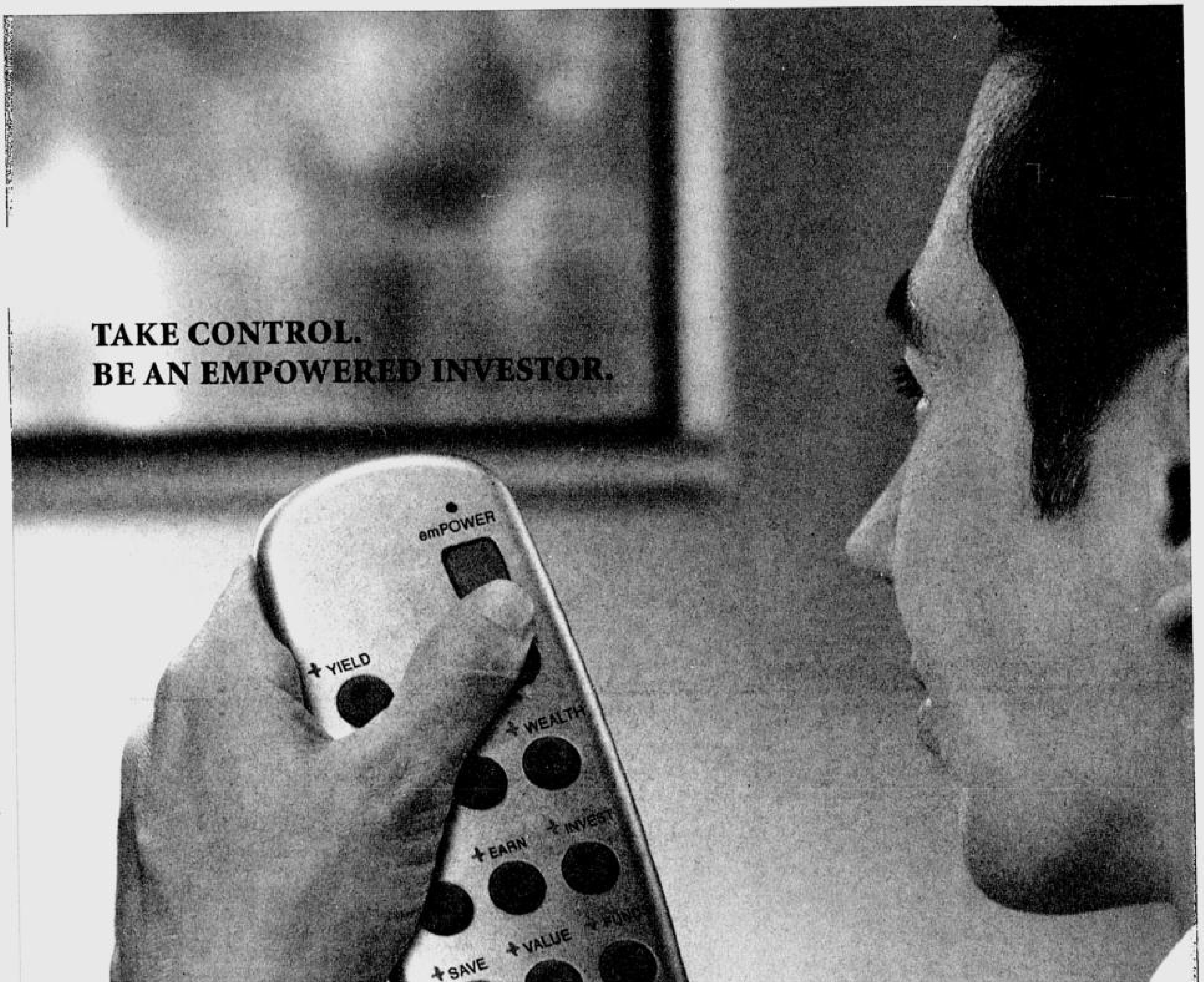
And convincing skeptical regulators and an increasingly incredulous public about their viability seems to be the biggest liability of some pre-need firms like CAP, at present.

No less than Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Senate trade and commerce committee chair, opposes CAP's bid for rehabilitation.

"Obviously, CAP has been engaged in a litany of lies and had been fooling the regulators and the people all along," said the lawmaker, who is spearheading moves to impose tighter regulations on the industry. "SEC was correct in suspending CAP's license to sell. If CAP was allowed to continue selling plans, then more families could have been fooled."

Roxas pointed out that CAP had in the past paraded several names of supposed investors,

FOR PRE-NEED B2



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

UITF	Available through American Express Bank	Earnings per Annum (as of 09/05/05)*
Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund	Dollar Wealth Plus Account	11.79%
Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund	Peso Cash Plus Account	8.47%

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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AMERICAN EXPRESS

There'll be enough funds to go around, CAP tells clients

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILIPpines Inc. (CAP) yesterday announced to its plan holders that it would continue to pay its tuition fee obligations even during its rehabilitation period.

CAP yesterday also lashed out at its its critics, saying that they were being "over-simplistic" when they tagged the pre-need business as nothing more than a "pyramiding scam."

"It is unfair to sow fear [that] many clients [will be left] holding an empty bag," the pre-need firm said. "CAP will continue to pay tuition fees and there would be enough funds for the plan holders [after rehabilitation takes place]."

CAP in a statement stressed that they were not engaged in a "pyramid scam."

It said that the firm needed to sell "more educational plans, specially with adjusted premiums, to provide for the trust fund of the new plans, as mandated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)."

It added that the firm needed to earn a "surplus in order to catch up with the tuition levels of maturing obligations."

CAP also branded as unfair the statement of Sen. Manuel Roxas II who accused company officials of engaging in "a litany of lies," in dealing with the regulators and more than 700,000 plan holders.

It said Roxas was mistaken when the senator alleged that the pre-need business was engaging in "a form of kiting or Ponzi scam."

According to a CAP official, "kiting" pertains to the practice of paying off maturing liabilities of the older policyholders using new funds that have not been deposited.

"This is using other people's money," said the CAP official who asked not to be named. "This is really the definition of kiting."

He said CAP could not have engaged in this practice because all securities to be sold are reviewed and registered with the SEC.

He also said no sale of plans could be done without the approval of the SEC. Even the advertisements and promos for the sale of plans needed a greenlight from the SEC.

The SEC has required all pre-need companies to deposit a percentage of the collections to the trust fund—according to a schedule validated by SEC consulting actuaries, the official said.

According to the CAP official, the pre-need firm would never engage in the practice of "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

He explained that in the pre-need business, it is a case of "sharing each other's burden."

"On my own, I cannot generate that kind of income from my savings," the official said. "but if I contribute to a common and larger fund, managed in this case by a BSP-licensed trustee Bank, I may be able to look to the future with enough funds to accomplish my goal."

g Ceremony of the
Program on
for Philippines (PHSW)
Makati City

RP LEADERSHIP IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Trade Undersecretary Carissa Cruz (right) receives a token from Maria Corazon Akol, president of the Philippine National IT Standards Foundation Inc., during a recent program on software design in Makati City. Cruz believes that the country will soon become the primary source of information technology experts in Asia.

For pre-need ...

From page B1

among them are Green Circle Properties & Resources Inc., Green Square Properties Corp., First American Investment LLC, and International Global Capital Holdings AG.

"Up to now, not a single centavo was infused in CAP," Roxas said in a statement. "Their trust fund is down to P4.71 billion from P8.5 billion in 2003."

Bitter pill

No matter what road to recovery the preneed industry and their clients decide to take, the solution will definitely hurt everyone concerned.

Holders of open-ended educational plans are faced with a dilemma: Should they continue paying their premiums in the hope that the company will honor its commitments, or should they stop paying altogether and stand to recover only a portion of their policy value, or even risk losing everything they've paid through the years?

SEC assistant director Nonilonia Ambat, who oversees the pre-need industry, said that on the average, plan holders can recover 50 percent of what they paid when they choose to terminate their plan benefits—but only if the policies have been fully paid.

Clients whose policies are only being paid for the first or second year are not entitled to recover any portion of their investments, Ambat said, explaining that terminating the policy at such an early stage will be a desperate move.

More realistically, she said, plan holders must be ready to swallow the bitter pill.

"Pre-need companies should convince plan holders to agree to convert to fixed value benefits," Ambat said. "If they need to beg the plan holder to agree, they should. The public will surely take the hit."

The SEC official's advice assumes that a pre-need company still has enough assets to cover the termination values of policy holders' plans. This may not always be the case as some firms may not only be illiquid, but bankrupt.

For actuaries like Isagani de Castro, however, clients of some troubled pre-need firms are better off cutting their losses and starting from scratch.

"For clients of some firms, I would advise them to just stop paying," he said, adding that paying premium payments to a bankrupt preneed firm is like throwing good money away.

"For some companies that are not that deep in trouble, like Pacific Plans, there is still hope that clients can recover their principal investment plus a small interest, if they accept the proposed rehabilitation plan," De Castro said. "But they should already forget about receiving the full benefits."

Wanted: Strong regulator

The Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies believes, meanwhile, that openended plans should have a benefits ceiling.

But more than putting a cap on the amount to be paid to plan holders, the pre-need business model can still work and stay alive under a fixed value set-up, said federation president Juan Miguel Madrigal Vazquez.

"The pre-need industry remains viable because they serve a need," Vazquez said in an emailed note to the INQUIRER. "The challenge is for the companies to serve those needs properly. People mistake the open-ended plan for the whole industry when it is not."

Vasquez also said that the problems faced by some of the industry's biggest players, like CAP and Pacific Plans, happened before 1994—way before the SEC was given resources to regulate the industry as it has been doing since the Securities Regulation Code was passed in 2000.

"The law should create a strong regulator, empowered and accountable, with resources to implement this vision prior to, and after, any problem that would arise," he said. "The law should provide proactive protection and post protection or penalties to protect plan holders."

Roxas is hopeful that the pre-need bill pending in Congress will address these concerns, and more.

He explained that the law will specify a uniform accounting system which all players must adhere to, set prudent measures to protect trust funds from abuse and misuse, and require pre-need policies to be insured through a similar system used in the insurance industry.

As such, the pre-need industry will also be transferred under the ambit of the Insurance Commission, which will likely have more success in regulating quasi-insurance products.

Roxas admits, however, that his proposed solution is prospective, rather than retroactive.

While future buyers of pre-need policies will enjoy greater protection, existing clients will likely be left holding the bag, unless they can convince the courts to liquidate the assets of troubled firms in their favor.

On this point, both Roxas and De Castro agree that clients should pool their resources and file a class action suit against erring firms.

"The legal route is the only route," De Castro said, given the state of the industry, where several pre-need firms are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Having been a consultant for several insurance and pre-need firms in the past, De Castro predicts more pain in the coming months and years for all players in the industry—from the clients to the companies, even the regulators.

"It will be very difficult," De Castro warn

Enercon push leads to drop in consumer power use

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT'S AGGRESSIVE PUSH for energy conservation, as well as individual efforts to reduce energy use, made a slight dent on consumers' power consumption during the first seven months of the year.

Electricity sales of the Manila Electric Co. to the residential sector fell 2 percent in January-July, Meralco vice president and utility economics chief Ivanna Dela Pena said.

Sales to the commercial sector, however, picked up by 4 percent as compared with the same period last year due to the opening of new businesses.

"Despite this increase in sales, I think efforts to conserve energy may have had some effect on the level of growth achieved during the first seven months of the year. There could have been higher growth without the enercon measures," she told the INQUIRER.

She said it was still difficult to predict whether electricity demand for the rest of the year would follow the same trend as in the first seven months.

"Aggressive energy conservation measures may temper the growth that can be achieved in terms of sales. But, of course, we're not attributing the growth slowdown entirely to enercon. There may be other factors that have to be considered," she said.

"In the coming months, we'll have to see how sales will go. With the colder weather, we expect a dip in demand. As to how much of a dip, we are not sure yet," she added.

Europe carriers get CAB nod to hike rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HAS approved the petition of European carriers Lufthansa and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to increase their fares due to rising fuel costs.

Lufthansa will increase its one-way, Manila to Frankfurt fare by $37. This will be the German carrier's first time to impose a fuel surcharge, while all other local and foreign airlines have been going to the CAB for fuel relief since mid-2004.

KLM will also impose an additional fuel surcharge of $13 for each one-way passage from Manila to Amsterdam on top of its existing one-way surcharge of $10.

Lufthansa said it would impose an additional surcharge of $9 for passage from Frankfurt to London.

Its head of hearing, Fred Villarin, said continuing oil price increases led to a periodic petition for additional fuel surcharges with the CAB as fuel accounts for 40 percent of airlines' operating costs.

The German carrier flies daily to Manila from Frankfurt. The plane stops in Guangdong, China for technical checks and to pick up Frankfurt-bound passengers.

KLM offers non-stop, 14-hour flights from Manila to Amsterdam daily, using a Boeing 777 that can accommodate 292 economy class and 35 business class passengers.

Long-haul carriers Northwest and Continental Air have also asked the CAB for additional fuel surcharges.

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Aguirre's unaccounted-for billions

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER LOSING A SUPREME COURT case over the control of his Calatagan hacienda, Banco Filipino/BF Homes heir Albert "Bobby" Aguirre has lost another judicial round, this time over his role as administrator of the multibillion-peso estate left by his father.

Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Eleuterio Guerrero issue earlier this month an order for the polo-playing billionaire to submit a "complete and updated" inventory of the estate of Don Tomas Aguirre, nearly a decade since the issue had been stuck in judicial black hole.

Bobby, who is said to be spending most of his time in his fabulous Australian polo ranch, has also been ordered to render an accounting of the estate's expenses—and income, if any—and what he did to "care, manage and preserve" the multibillion windfall.

Bobby's younger sister, Ana Maria Aguirre-Koruga, has sought since 1996 to appoint an independent estate administrator and make Bobby account for the allegedly wanton dissipation of the estate, with Bobby making substantial donations to the British royal family and his acquisition of another polo field in Great Britain.

Since she filed the inheritance suit, Koruga has seen her American husband deported from the Philippines and sued by Bobby in Koruga's own hometown in Seattle.

Bobby lost the Seattle case, despite flying in Occidental Mindoro Rep. Ma. Amelita Villarosa as an expert witness.

Koruga has asked the Pasay RTC to prohibit Bobby from charging the Seattle litigation costs, now running into millions, against the Aguirre estate, but Judge Guerrero declined, saying it would be premature for him to rule on the issue since there has been no record so far showing that Bobby has charged the US court expenses to the Aguirre estate.

(Disclosure: Banco Filipino has filed a P3-billion libel complaint against Cocktales and the INQUIRER before the Makati Regional Trial Court, but has not yet paid the required P45 million in filing fees.)

Money-go-round

- THE NEW Honda City is priced about P10,000 to P20,000 more than the current models it is replacing, EVAT not yet included. The top-of-the-line, 1.5-liter black model has a rear end, with its lipped-trunk and horizontal signal light, which makes it look like a foreshortened BMW 7.
- THE BAGUIO Country Club has lifted its boycott against the INQUIRER, and the paper is again available as complimentary daily fare to resort guests.
- CAPITOL Medical Center and its former chair, Thelma Navarette-Clemente, lost in a recent Supreme Court decision which ruled that the dismissal in 1992 of Dr. Cesar Meris, the hospital's head of industrial service unit, was illegal.

Heard through the grapevine

BANKER George Go has one standard line for creditors and those seeking *balato* from the multibillion-peso windfall received by the family for the sale of the Go stake in Equitable PCI Bank: The money is still in escrow.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Market

From page B1

The composite index rose 5.42 points to 1,933.51 after trading in a narrow 11-point range. Turnover was 459.4 million shares worth P632.4 million. The broader all-shares index edged up by 1.99 points to 1,177.81.

Gainers beat losers 35 to 30, with 54 stocks unchanged.

"The market is neither here nor there," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

Some investors have begun to take positions in stocks that are expected to report strong results for the three months to September but the upside was limited by prevailing economic concerns such as uncertainties on the implementation of the VAT law, he added.

"Gains have slowed down from (Monday). Aside from PLDT, the rise has been limited to second- and third-liners," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Dealers said an expected hike in interest rates at the central bank's next meeting Thursday weighed on sentiment. The key overnight rates—7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending—were last raised in April to curb a sharp rise in inflation.

PLDT, the most active stock, rose P45 to P1,610. *AFP*

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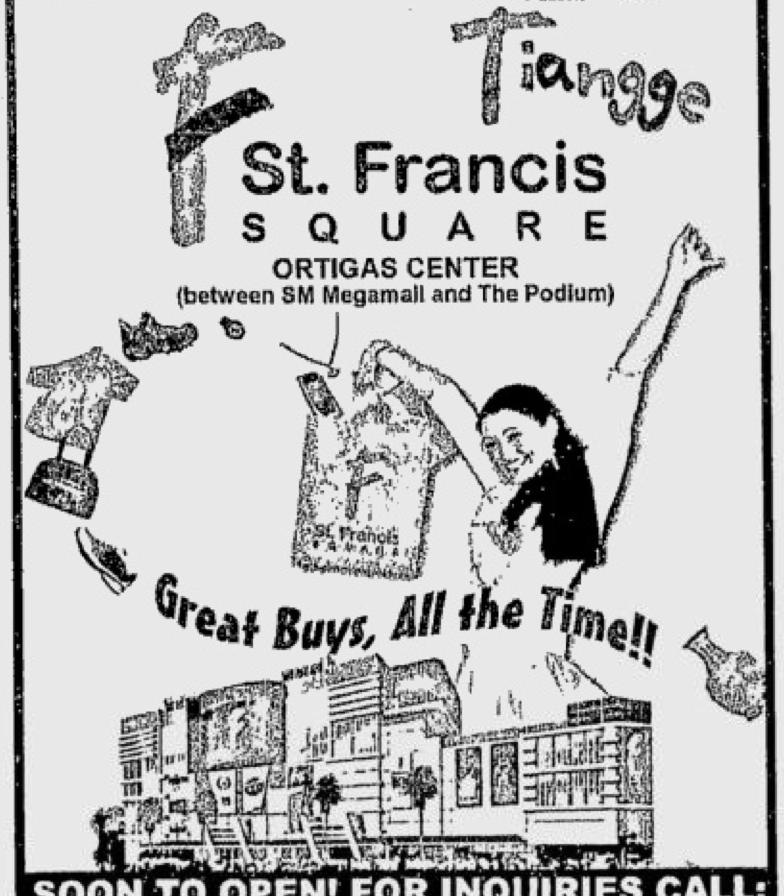

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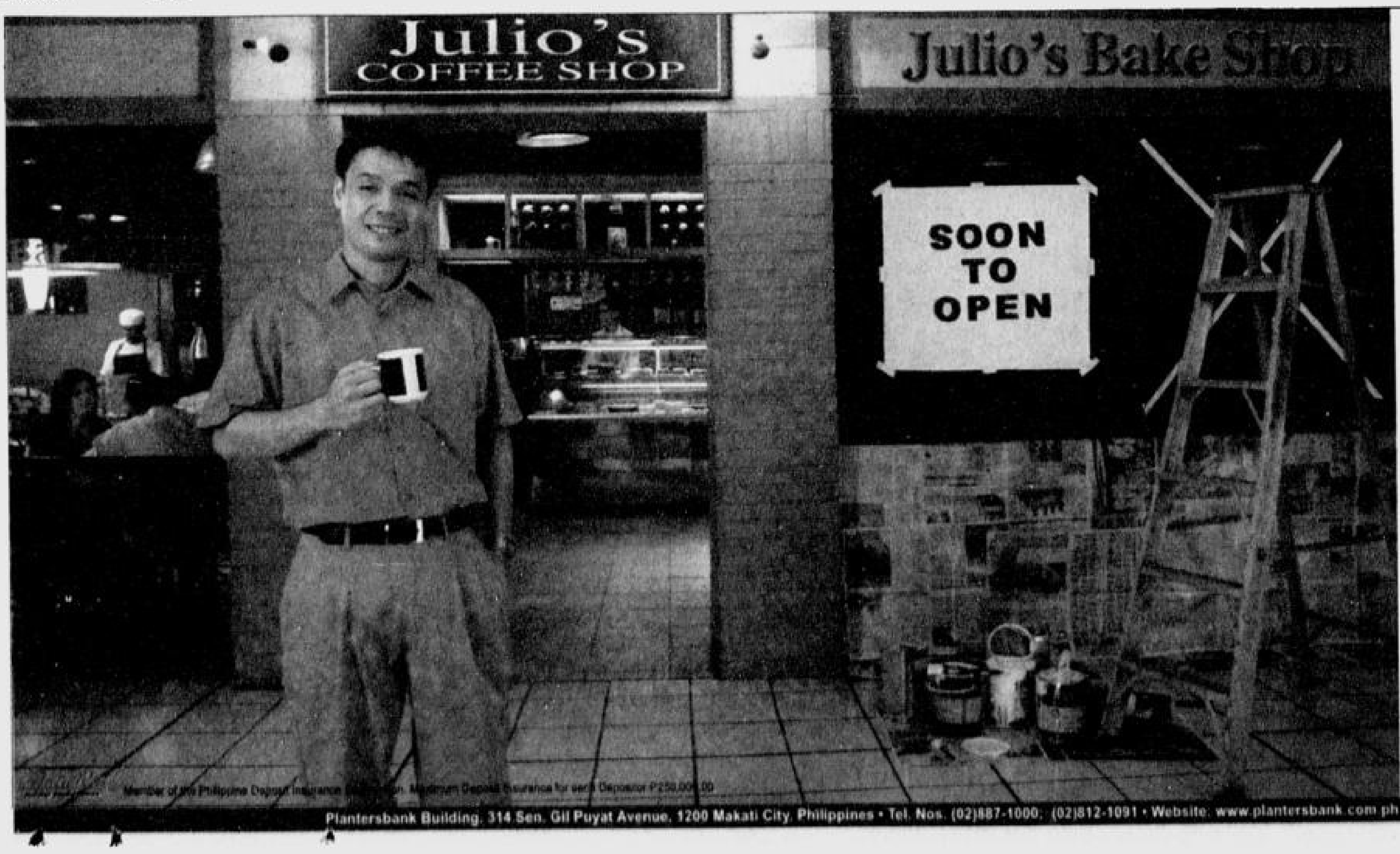

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BSP seen raising policy rates

US Federal rate hike, peso volatility adding pressure

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO NEARLY HIT ITS ALL-TIME LOW against the US dollar yesterday before rebounding in the afternoon alongside other regional currencies.

With the volatile peso adding to jitters over high oil prices, market players are expecting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to raise its overnight rates by 25 basis points in its monthly policy-rate setting meeting on Thursday.

The peso yesterday hit an intra-day low of 56.37:$1, just a few centavos off its record low of 56.45, before recovering in afternoon trade to close at 56.235 to the US dollar at a volume of $451 million.

At the end of the day, the local currency even gained slightly from Monday's finish of 56.295:$1.

Despite the slight recovery, however, traders said the peso was still under pressure from heavy corporate demand especially for importation—which is seasonally strongest in the third quarter as enterprises beef up their inventory for the Christmas season. They said the peso's movement yesterday was also influenced by the volatility of the Japanese yen.

Adding pressure to the currency is the continued rise in oil prices.

Four out of five traders from different banks polled by Inquirer yesterday also believed the BSP would hike its key overnight rates for the second time this year during its Sept. 22 policy rate setting.

As a prelude to the expected tightening, the market already demanded higher premium for all tenors of Treasury bills at a government auction on Monday, prompting the Bureau of Treasury to reject all bids.

Some of the traders polled, however, said there was still a chance that the BSP might hold off rate increases this week.

"I think inflation is contained and economic activity is a bit slow," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer at BDO Private Bank and president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines.

Others believe that unless the BSP tightens monetary policy soon, the peso will be heavily battered due to the narrowing interest rate differential.

The BSP has so far kept its overnight rates steady since last April, when the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was raised by 25 basis points to 7 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate to 9.25 percent as a "preemptive move" against rising inflation.

Last July, however, the BSP approved a 2 percentage hike in the reserve requirement on banks to curb the excess financial liquidity which was exerting pressures on inflation and the foreign exchange rates. That was the time that the peso also tumbled to near-historic lows against the US dollar on political jitters.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVOCATES
2004 Entrepreneur of the Year and National Bookstore general manager Socorro Ramos and Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose Concepcion III joined a recent forum on the proposed curriculum for a BS Entrepreneurship college degree. The forum was co-organized by the Commission on Higher Education and the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship. Ramos and Concepcion are both founding trustees of PCE, a non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing entrepreneurship education and promoting the spirit of enterprise.

Napocor to sign ₱1.2-B electrification contract

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER Corp. will sign today a 17.5-million-euro (P1.2 billion) contract with Paris-Manila Technology Corp. (Pamatec) and ETDE of Bouygues Construction for the electrification of 128 barangays in Masbate.

The agreement is under the Philippine Rural Electrification Service (PRES) Project, which aims to energize all *barangays* in the country by 2008 and provide 100 percent individual household connection by 2017.

Funding for the program will come from the 22.5-million-euro (P1.5-billion) French Financial Protocol that the Philippine and French governments signed in November last year.

Upon completion by 2007, the Masbate electrification project is seen to benefit some 18,000 households in 128 of the province's barangays.

According to Napocor data, Masbate has the lowest electrification level in the country at only 56.18 percent as of end-July.

Masbate is considered the largest cattle-raising province in the Bicol region, with most of its 707,000 inhabitants engaged in the industry. The province also thrives on agriculture, producing crops such as copra, rice, corn and tobacco.

Napocor provides electricity to the province through its Small Power Utilities Group (Spug) using three power plants: the 2.5-megawatt (MW) Masbate diesel power plant I, the 14.4-MW Power Barge 105 and the 1.4-MW Ticao diesel power plant.

According to Napocor estimates, peak demand in the province is roughly 10 MW.

Napocor's contract with the French consortium is expected to provide a huge boost to Masbate's overall electrification level.

Signing the funding contract are Napocor president Cyril Del Callar, ETDE business development manager Patrick Canton and Pamatec president Hubert D'Aboville, with Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and tops officials of the three signatory-firms as witnesses.

Pharma sector moves to lower cost of drugs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL firms is pushing for a large-scale upgrade of the technical competence of the industry's professionals as a means of taking advantage of expired patents to make drugs more affordable.

Ma. Lourdes B. Buensuceso, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industry, said in an interview that better skills were needed considering that information were not very accessible under the country's current intellectual property system.

"Most patents, even those that were made 40 years ago, are too technical such that the monopoly on the products are maintained even if the patents have lapsed," Buensuceso said.

"This happens because patent documents were written in such ways that even chemists have a hard time understanding them," she said. "So even if there were thousands of patents that have lapsed, manufacturers are not producing those drugs."

In principle, a government, through a patent, grants a temporary monopoly on an original creation to reward the creators for the resources spent on producing their ideas.

The knowledge and the benefits from the ideas would then belong to the public once the patent expires.

In July, the Intellectual Property Office said more medicines could be made available at lower prices if local pharmaceutical firms helped increase the production of some 10,000 drugs whose patents have expired.

"What we need is to raise the competence level of our people so that we could take advantage of the vast knowledge that is available but is in reality hard to gain access to," Buensuceso said.

GOINGS ON

Lexmedia gets ISO seal

LEXMEDIA DIGITAL CORP, THE COMMERCIAL division of the Print Town group, was awarded an ISO-14001 certificate for its environmental management system's compliance with international standards.

The state-of-the-art printing facility in Mamplasan, Laguna was certified by TUV Phils., an independent certification body, after completing two audit stages. The ISO-14001 certificate indicates Lexmedia's compliance with legal requirements, especially those on pollution prevention, proper waste segregation, proper handling, storage, use and disposal of chemicals, as well as the optimum use of major resources through waste minimization.

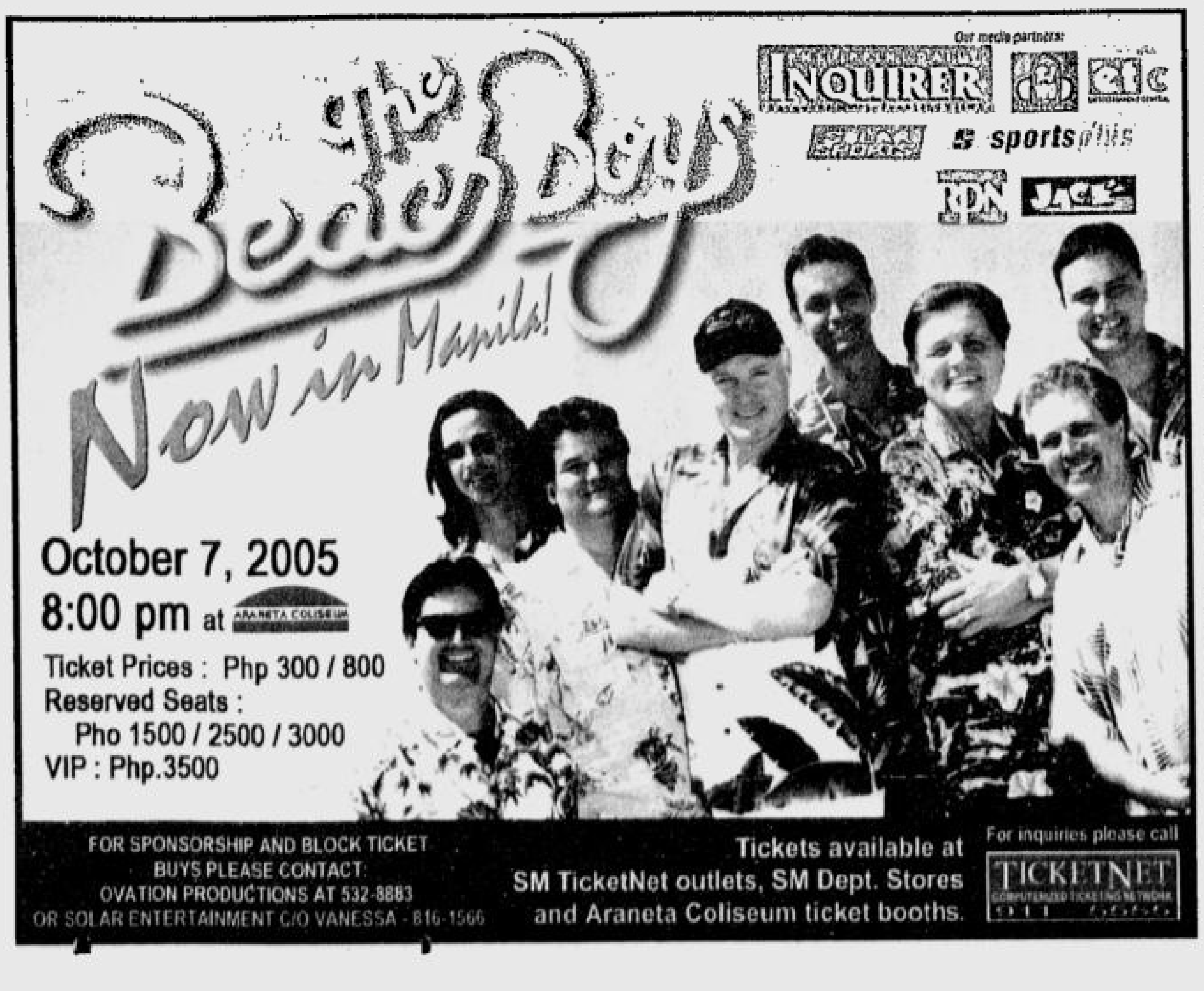
"We are delighted that our factory and our procedures have been recognized as meeting world-class standards for environmental management," said Lexmedia Digital president Dennis O. Valdes.

Roaming in 3G networks

Globe Telecom roamers can now use 3G technology while traveling in Asia-Pacific countries. This makes Globe the first to introduce 3G roaming capabilities to its subscribers.

3G (third-generation) is the next level of mobile technology that enables rapid Internet connection, video conferencing, video sharing, video streaming and mobile entertainment. To date, Globe is the only Philippine telco to have successfully tested 3G.

Globe international roaming subscribers can now roam in 3G networks in three countries using the following telecom networks and select mobile phone models: NTT DoCoMo and Vodafone in Japan, Sunday in Hong Kong, and SingTel in Singapore. The 3G technology will allow subscribers to access and download heavy data files such as music tracks and videos from the Internet.



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BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30.5	30	30.5	208,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	51	51	339,300
China Banking Corp.	630	630	615	615	180
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	300,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	49	48.5	49	153,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	3,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	450,400
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	1,100
Phil. Savings Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	15.75	14.75	15.5	92,100
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	12,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	27,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2910	2915	2910	2915	1,220
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	140	140	140	2,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2090	2100	2090	2100	3,090
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	37,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	780	785	775	780	38,220
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	2.95	3	140,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	21,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	218,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1580	1610	1580	1610	132,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,190,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	4,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	30,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.5	20	20.25	2,692,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	4,250,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	492,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	0.98	0.98	390,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	632,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	250,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	815,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	19,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	57,900
Swift Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	58,600
San Miguel Corp. B	95	95	94	94	232,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	72,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.008	2,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	302.5	302.5	292.5	295	64,410
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	350,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	104,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	26,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.72	0.67	0.72	1,460,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	2,165,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	210,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.05	1,767,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	55,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	270,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	43	61,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	80,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	89,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	1,308,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,080,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,560,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	40,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
SM Investments Corp.	209	209	208	208	205,370
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	210,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	590,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.32	117,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.73	240,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	430,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.62	3,486,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	103,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	5,899,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	110,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	800,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.3	3,699,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,030,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5	4.95	4.95	474,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	29,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	2,893,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.94	510,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.94	770,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	47,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.2	538,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	6,450,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,070,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	76,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.88	5,850,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.16	1.08	1.1	11,716,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	714,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	420,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,900,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	149,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4.15	4	4.15	355,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	3,850,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	110,000

CURRENCIES

September 20, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823723	1.000000	56.2580
Japan	Yen	0.007388	0.008969	0.5046
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484679	1.802400	101.3994
Hongkong	Dollar	0.106132	0.128844	7.2485
Switzerland	Franc	0.644289	0.782167	44.0032
Canada	Dollar	0.704820	0.855652	48.1373
Singapore	Dollar	0.489612	0.594389	33.4391
Australia	Dollar	0.631883	0.767106	43.1558
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.185058	2.652661	149.2334
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219660	0.266667	15.0022
Brunei	Dollar	0.488161	0.592628	33.3401
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020042	0.024331	1.3688
UAE	Dirham	0.224277	0.272272	15.3175
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214000	68.2972
Argentina	Peso	0.283310	0.343938	19.3493
Brazil	Real	0.360176	0.437254	24.5990
Denmark	Kroner	0.134091	0.162787	9.1581
India	Rupee	0.018798	0.022821	1.2839
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218552	0.265322	14.9265
Mexico	New Peso	0.076172	0.092473	5.2023
New Zealand	Dollar	0.577201	0.700722	39.4212
South Africa	Rand	0.128306	0.155763	8.7629
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000972	0.0547
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024920	0.030253	1.7020

EPCIBank names new corporate secretary

EQUITABLE PCIBANK HAS APpointed a new corporate secretary to replace lawyer Pelagio Ricalde, who helped the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System wrestle control of the bank from the Go family.

Ricalde's resignation takes effect on Sept. 26. Named to replace him was Luis Ma. Uranza, corporate secretary of the GSIS.

Ricalde said he was plucked out of semi-retirement by SM' Teresita Sy, who chairs the bank's executive committee, to serve as the bank's corporate secretary.

The ouster of the Go family from the bank, he said, was the "largest successful hostile takeover bid in our country's corporate history."

Ricalde hailed the Supreme Court temporary restraint order issued on Aug. 4 which effectively encouraged the Go family to sell out their shares to the Sy family.

The lawyer said the EPCIBank hostile takeover bid was one of the peaks in his professional life.

The SM group earlier purchased the Gos' 24.76 percent stake in EPCIBank for P56.50 per share or a sum of P10.2 billion and another 10 percent stake in Equitable Card Network for P600 million.

Bond markets await Federal Reserve decision

TOKYO—US TREASURY BOND PRICES were little changed in Asia on Tuesday as investors looked to the Federal Reserve's policy meeting later in the day (Wednesday morning, Manila time), in particular its assessment on risks to the economy.

Most market players now expect the Fed to raise its Fed funds rate by 0.25 percentage point to 3.75 percent. They are keen to see whether the economic disruptions caused by Hurricane Katrina spur a major rewrite of the Fed's post-meeting statement.

Some traders think the Fed will opt for only minor tweaks in language on the ground that the hurricane's impact on the economy is still not clear.

They also say recent rises in oil prices could stoke inflation, which could require the Fed to keep tightening its grip on credit.

"Judging from recent comments from senior Fed officials, I think they are unlikely to change the wording that much," said a fund manager at a Japanese asset management firm.

But others suspect the US central bank may imply a future pause in its tightening campaign amid worries that towering oil prices could slow consumer spending.

US debt prices posted slim gains in US trade on Monday as those fears were reinforced by a 7 percent surge in oil prices spurred by another storm in the Gulf of Mexico.

US 10-year Treasury bonds stood at 100 to yield 4.25 percent, little changed from late US trade.

Fed funds rate futures are almost pricing in one more rate hike after September this year, with the Fed funds rate seen around 4 percent at the end of the year. *Reuters*

Nikkei index tops 13,100

TOKYO—THE NIKKEI AVERAGE ROSE 1.47 percent on Tuesday to close above 13,100 for the first time since June 2001 after investors bought blue chips such as Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group due to confidence in Japan's economy.

Buying even spread to lagging stocks such as regional banks and Japan's only loss-making auto maker, Mitsubishi Motors Corp., as trading volume on the Tokyo bourse's first section hit a fresh record.

Beer maker Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. rose after a brokerage upgrade and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. jumped ahead of an earnings forecast update after the market's close.

Hopes for improved earnings due to a 14.5 percent rally in the Nikkei this year fuelled buying of insurance firms including Millea Holdings Inc., making the sector the biggest winner among the Tokyo bourse's 33 industries.

Monday's deal on North Korea at six-nation talks in Beijing helped buying, despite a statement by Pyongyang on Tuesday seen as undermining the agreement, analysts said.

"Things are in favor, and the six-way talks added another favorable factor for the market," said Masaki Iso, chief investment officer at Yasuda Asset Management.

The Nikkei closed up 189.89 points at 13,148.57, its highest finish since June 11, 2001.

The capital-weighted Topix index of all first-section issues posted its biggest percentage gain since Aug. 10.

The Topix rose 1.78 percent to 1,352.53, its highest close since May 29, 2001.

An estimated 3.26 billion shares changed hands on the first section, a new record that surpassed the previous high of 3.04 billion shares set earlier this month. Advancers swept past decliners 1,282 to 296.

Analysts also said a stalemate Germany's weekend election raised the possibility of further delays in implementing structural reforms in Europe's largest economy and provided another reason to buy Japanese shares.

"Things look even better when compared with Europe, where a poor election result caused a fall in the euro," Yasuda Asset's Iso said.

Hitoshi Yamamoto, president at Commerz International Capital Management (Japan), shared that view.

"Global investors remain hesitant to buy Europe (after the election). The impact of Hurricane Katrina on the US economy looks far less serious than initially thought, but still uncertainty remains there," Yamamoto said.

"Relatively speaking, Japan looks the least uncertain market in regard to politics and the economy," he said, adding there is one thing less to worry about for Japan after Monday's deal on North Korea.

Six countries, including North Korea and the United States, agreed on Monday to a set of principles on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs in return for aid and recognizing its right to a civilian nuclear program. *Reuters*

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A MAN looks at a stock indicator in downtown Tokyo, on Tuesday. Japan's main share index pierced the 13,100-point level for the first time in over four years as foreign investors piled into the market on hopes of a rebound in the world's No. 2 economy, dealers said. The Tokyo Stock Exchange's benchmark Nikkei-225 index climbed 189.89 points to 13,148.57 by day's end. AFP

China to quadruple airliner fleet

BEIJING—AERSOPACE GIANT BOEING CO. expects China to buy 2,600 commercial jet aircraft over the next two decades, underpinned by strong growth in domestic flights, company executives said on Tuesday.

That would quadruple China's fleet to more than 3,200 jets at an estimated cost of $213 billion at 2004 prices, Randy Baseler, Boeing's vice president of marketing for commercial aircraft, told reporters.

The Chicago-based company is betting that airlines, freed from regulations that encouraged the traditional hub-and-spoke system, are going to be buying smaller jets to provide direct flights between smaller cities.

It thinks China will buy nearly 1,700 narrowbody planes, such as its 737 models or the A320 family made by European rival Airbus SAS. Airbus is controlled by European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co. N.V., based in Germany and France.

"This market is going to continue to develop with more frequency and non-stops, not bigger airplanes," Baseler said, in a dig at Airbus's upcoming A380 superjumbo.

Boeing expects China's domestic passenger market to grow at an average annual rate of 8.8 percent over the next 20 years, while the cargo business would grow at a rate of 10 percent, Baseler said. *Reuters*

PLDT buying Dream Satellite

From page B1

be absorbed.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said they were "still in the final stages of negotiations." The deal, he said, was not done yet.

The Cojuangco company holds a franchise to operate a direct-to-home programming service.

The acquisition of Dream Satellite will enable the joint venture between PLDT and America's largest direct-TV provider, Echostar Communications Inc., to finally take off.

PLDT and Echostar are planning to invest $85 million to engage in pay television operations in the Philippines through satellite receivers, not the traditional cable system which is prone to piracy and signal theft.

PLDT and Echostar have an existing venture under ePLDT. Parlance Systems Inc., which is a subsidiary of ePLDT, has been providing inbound and outbound call center services to subscribers of Echostar in the US since 2002.

Discussions on their investment in a direct broadcast satellite business started as early as 2000 but securing a franchise was one of the issues that had impeded the venture.

Cesar Reyes, chair and chief executive officer of the Cojuangco-owned satellite broadcast outfit and a former PLDT official, said in late August that valuation was stalling the negotiations between the telecom giant and Dream Satellite.

The INQUIRER tried to reach him yesterday for comments on the reported developments, but Reyes was not answering his mobile phone.

Dream uses PLDT's Mabuhay Satellite to broadcast content to more than 100,000 subscribers nationwide.

Reyes said Dream Satellite was now the second-largest pay TV operator in the country. Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. is the largest.

PLDT owns a third of Beyond Cable, which it would like to exchange for control of Bayan Telecommunications Phils. Inc., owned by the Lopezes.

"MVP's (PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan) plan is to bring down the rate of Dream by offering more programs. He can do that with Echostar, which has more than 200 channels," said a source.

Right now, Dream Satellite is considered more expensive than the traditional cable providers.

Sources said if talks with Dream failed, PLDT would open negotiations with other direct-to-home providers such as Pacific Cable Inc. and GV Broadcasting.

Under the plan, the joint venture between PLDT and Echostar would provide clients with home antennas. It would also supply more than 2,000 video and audio channels.

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

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Inflation rate

AS OF July 2005, inflation rate is at 7.1 percent while the purchasing power of Peso is at 0.77 according to the National Statistics Office.

OFWS

THE NUMBER of deployed Overseas Filipino Workers from January to June 2005 now stands at 270,624.

Unions

FROM JANUARY to June 2005, there are 16,923 existing unions while there are 2,790 existing Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs).

Highest paid HR job

A HIGH school diploma, a minimum one year experience, and special skills in preparing food are all what it takes for a cook to land the highest-paying service job in the hotel and restaurant industry, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) disclosed. Cooks working full-time were paid the highest among selected service workers in the hotel and restaurant industry earning an average of P9,406 monthly salary.

Top 20 vacancies

ACCORDING to the DOLE's Bureau of Local Employment, there are 20,374 vacancies available in the Phil-Jobnet. Among the top 20 job vacancy categories in Phil-Jobnet for local and overseas vacancies, the top five categories are for customer service assistant (2,887), professional nurse-general (2,519), production machine operator (1,060), salesman (731), and administrative assistant (707). The rest of the top 20 local and overseas job opening categories are as sales executive (635), technical support staff (308), cashier (275), merchandiser (274), waitress (233), waiter-general (230), accounting assistant (216), production worker (211), domestic helper (210), programmer and designer (202), sales representative (200), mechanical engineer (192), pastry chef (176), janitor (165), and building electrician (160).

Source: Dole.gov.ph

Innovative mechanical engineer not a mere cog in the wheel

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

CAREER TALES

WITHOUT JERRY CASINO AND HIS team, Unilever's production would grind to a halt. Plastic bottles in the production line won't be filled up with Sunsilk shampoo and Close Up toothpaste tubes won't be boxed in time for shipment. That's because engineering services, the department that Casino handles, is Unilever's utilities all rolled into one. As engineering services manager and multi-skilling training manager, not only does Casino make sure the production line runs well-oiled, he also ensures that the employees perform in tiptop shape.

A huge feat, running men and machines, but Casino handles his job with confidence, integrity and passion. As an engineer, he takes his responsibilities seriously. "I still believe that engineers have the discipline to innovate the way we do things. It is in the mindset. It is in our attitude towards work," he says.

Providing utilities

Innovation is important in Casino's job. After all, he holds a position critical to the company's daily operations. As engineering services manager, he leads a group of highly skilled and motivated specialists and technicians whose main function is to supply all utilities required to run the whole Unilever Philippines, Inc. plant. This means that manufacturing relies on Casino's group for electricity, steam, water, refrigeration, air conditioning and fire protection. The team also handles transportation as it takes care of a fleet of company vehicles.

But the job is not as simple as ensuring continuous and uninterrupted supply of steam, water and electricity. Casino makes sure that the energy that the plant consumes is put into optimum use.

Engineering services operates a cogeneration plant that generates the electricity needed to run their production equipment. According to Casino, the byproduct of this operation is used to power up a boiler. The boiler generates steam for their heating needs. "As a result, we came up with cheap electricity and heating steam, which eventually are passed on to our products in terms of high quality but low-cost home and personal care items for local and global consumers," claims the head engineer.

Well-oiled team

High quality and world-class products are not a result of well-oiled machinery alone. They are also a product of a highly trained and skillful staff, which Casino also helps provide.

"My job as a multi-skilling training manager is to transform our operatives into a globally competitive workforce. We cannot compete in terms of labor cost but we can compete in terms of higher productivity," explains Casino.

"People are our most important assets. We Filipinos are creative. We work best under pressure. We can work as a cohesive well-oiled team. When push comes to shove, the Filipinos can. All that has to be done is to harness our people's skills using our own capabilities and doing things on small steps but sustained continuous improvements," Casino avers.

Training for excellence

For this reason, Casino is actively involved in training Unilever's people. According to him, Unilever employees are provided with training aimed to produce world-class excellence.

On top of making sure all the cogs in the machinery are well-oiled, Casino also designs and implements different training modules from hard skills to soft skills to suit the specific needs of each employee. Skills training is extended also to operations and supply chain suppliers. Even factory-based workers and plant operators are given priority. In short, young or old, no matter what designation he or she is holding, nobody gets left behind. Each one is given equal opportunity to improve and excel.

"The experience and talent of an engineer should not be confined in just one organization. Best practices should be shared with others. This is what my current organization does: farm out the jobs to other developing companies while at the same time, teach them the required expertise necessary to come out with globally competitive products," says Casino.

Kaizen

A mechanical engineering (ME) graduate from the Mapua Institute of Technology, Casino started out as a design engineer. Although he had yet to receive his ME licensure then, he reviewed for the board exam and worked at the same time claiming that doing mechanical designs was like studying while working.

From then on, Casino exposed himself to the different engineering fields and production operations. Casino went from machine shop supervisor to oil mill production supervisor to home care plant area engineer, learning the most mundane tasks like repairing boilers and mastering the most critical jobs like recommending and implementing work programs.

Now as engineering services manager and multi-skilling training manager, Casino can often be found within the plant, as early as 7 a.m., still doing pretty much the same things and more.

After his early morning rounds and checking key performance indicators, he proceeds to the office to discuss and brainstorm with his staff on improvement projects. *Kaizen*, a Japanese term that means continuous improvement, is a principle that Casino impresses on his team.

CASINO RODEL ROTONI

"It is a given that we will deliver the results of our current tasks. It is in the other extras that your worth is measured. There is no boundary in our work tasks. Built in our work culture and ethics is to actively contribute to the sustained improvements of the company operation," he declares.

Partners in progress

Tinkering with machines and vehicles may sound humbling, but it is a job that Casino enjoys and takes pride in. "The mechanic who tinkers with your car in a backyard motor shop or the mechanic who tinkers with the cars of Fernando

INNOVATIVE/ B7

How do you coach someone to better performance?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'VE GOT AN EMPLOYEE who has a lot of potential. How can I help her to do a better job?

Helping Hand

Did you hear about the German man who woke up very early one morning, stark naked, in the middle of the street? He wasn't an exhibitionist, he was a sleepwalker. A rather cold sleepwalker at that. The Buchen police picked him up and drove him back to his house.

Unfortunately, many coaches are like that man in Buchen. No, they're not naked, they just go about the coaching experience sleepwalking and not necessarily tailoring their coaching to the person and the specific challenges that he or she is grappling with. I've listed some tips below to help you be a more effective coach. For more, check out "Coaching for Leadership" (Jossey-Bass, 2000).

What process do the most effective coaches use? There are five stages that "Coaching For Leadership" recommends. First, assess the current skills of the "coachee." Second, clarify the coachee's expectations. Then, work together to establish the priorities for your time together.

Next, develop a plan outlining what you hope to accomplish. Finally, watch the coachee's performance improve. It is important to remember that coaching is different from teaching, which can often be a one-way street; coaching needs to be more of a dialogue. There are four main areas of coaching, I've outlined each below:

Are you coaching for skill? The emphasis here should be on a specific task that the person needs to learn how to do. Coaching for skill tends to happen over a short timeframe and be very specific. The key to success is to having a laser-beam focus on the specific skill and to not get distracted by other issues.

Are you coaching for performance in their current job? The emphasis here is broader than just a task or a series of tasks. Improving effectiveness in a job usually involves identifying core competencies and then developing a strategy for improving them. Because this is more involved, it usually lasts for a longer period of time. Because the range of coaching opportunities can be large, it is important to prioritize on the best opportunities for improvement.

Are you coaching to prepare them for a future job? If coaching for performance involves improving performance in your current job, coaching for development involves positioning yourself to do a job that is somewhere off on the horizon. This requires a lot of creativity to envision what may lie ahead for a specific person and to create learning opportunities that would prepare the person to tackle a future challenge.

Are you coaching an executive? Coaching at the executive level usually requires not only addressing the personal issues of the coachee, but also a host of organizational issues. This usually adds a level of complexity and therefore usually requires a longer timeframe.

Use these tips and you won't get undressed in your next coaching session, you'll help your.coachee's career takeoff.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot:

Have you ever used a mentor or a coach to improve your performance?

—Many times, 38 percent
—Once or twice, 26 percent
—Never, I've done it all on my own, 34 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

'I don't have much to do at work'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

HELLO! I READ YOUR COLUMN in the PDI and I appreciate career articles because they give me some tips on how to improve my career. Anyway, I would like to ask for your advice on what to do during periods of light workload. I work for one of the top 10 companies in the country and I sometimes find myself with lots of free time since our work is seasonal. We only have heavy workload during a particular season, which usually runs for about three to four months every year.

Afterwards, we simply prepare our regular monthly reports and other tasks that our boss might assign to us. Despite all these, we still have periods of light workload and sometimes, even no work at all.

To fight boredom, I end up reading newspapers and personal e-mails, surfing the Net and blogging. I know this is very unprofessional but what can I do? I do not want to stare at my computer screen for eight hours straight. I would appreciate any advice you can give me. Thank you.

Want to Be Busy

Thanks for your letter. I envy you. Many of those who write to me are in the opposite situation—they have the challenge of not being able to balance their work life and their personal life. Their problem is how to juggle many activities within a working day. But I remember early in my career when I worked for a monthly magazine—typically my editor would require me to write two to three articles a month and I would get them done in a week. So, what did I do?

I realized that time was gold. So, I decided to pursue my master's after work. I was able get permission from my boss to spend time at work to study. She realized that my studies were contributing to my ability to write interesting articles.

Today, the means to get a degree have become very convenient. There are a variety of modes to get further education. You can go to an after-work class and most of the big universities now have campuses in the business districts. Or you can enroll in a foreign university and download your lessons through the Internet regularly. The key here is to get your boss on your side.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

My other suggestion is for you, together with the other staff who may be experiencing the same situation, to come out with a learning program that can deepen your area of specialization. Meet your boss so that you can have regular learning sessions during the light days.

Now if you don't pursue formal studies, you can plan your own lifelong education program, take command of your own learning and become a peak learner. Some principles advocated by Ronald Gross can be helpful.

One, you can learn how to learn. We all know many things about the brain and its capability to absorb both creative and logical learning. We also have different multiple intelligences that we can continue to grow and develop.

Two, you are already a great learner in certain areas and you can build on the natural skill to make your learning, easy, enjoyable and productive. We know that we are all different. My daughter whose area is finance finds figures very interesting while a financial statement makes me sleepy. Knowing my handicap, I can work on myself to grow in curiosity about numbers.

Three, discover your own learning style, which you can strengthen. Some people are inductive learners learning from something specific then making generalizations, while others are deductive learners, knowing the whole then moving to the parts. Some of us are larks learning best in the morning, while some of us are owls, learning best in the evenings.

Four, you learn best when you are most mentally active making your own decisions in learning and using strategies to wake up your mind. You can sharpen your learning, reading, memory and creative thinking skills.

As a consultant, I have to read the latest thinking on management. I have discovered that the best way for me to remember the essence of what an author says is to read the first and last chapters of his or her book and scan the middle portions. Later, when I need information on the book, I read the material in greater detail.

Fifth, design your learning environment, one that is more comfortable and more effective. I have created in my bedroom a quiet nook, overlooking the mango trees in my yard. I find the place to be very productive and refreshing to my senses.

Sixth, learn to enjoy learning by choosing from a variety of material, methods and experiences. In my case, I like being able to read three books at a time since I easily get bored. One book is near my bed, another in the car and still another in the bathroom.

I try to do one chapter every time. Now, learning need not focus on work only. You can put on a tape and learn the lyrics of a song. You can try to improve your score in badminton.

In closing, cherish the time too when you are bored. They are fertile and creative moments that can give rise to future ventures or enterprises. It was in a boring plane trip coming home from Jakarta that made me realize that I should start my own training and consulting company and devote time to work I truly enjoy. This has been my work for the past 15 years. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902)

Is outsourcing in or out?

By Mitchie Monroy Arcaina
Contributor

OUTSOURCING IS ONE OF THE most popular practices of local and foreign companies who want to reduce costs while still providing excellent customer service.

In this area, the Philippines has become a favorite for foreign-based conglomerates for several reasons. Filipino professionals speak English well and are well-educated. Local workers are fairly familiar with western culture owing to our historical affinity. Our culture of hospitality has also allowed us to carve a niche for quality customer service. IT infrastructures, combined with government incentives, have drawn foreign nationals to situate their offshore offices in the country.

Despite the benefits and increased employment that outsourcing brings, there are those who decry the long work hours and stress that accompany outsourcing work. This month's People at Work Pulse aimed to find out how Filipinos feel about outsourcing.

Nature of work

Fifty-one readers all from the private sector responded. Among them, 53 percent are females and 47 percent are males with ages ranging from 17 to 45 years old. Call center employees made up 57 percent of the total respondents. Their average tenure is five and a half years.

Around 82 percent of the respondents work for an outsourcing organization. Though the majority are hired by call centers, the products and services they handle are various. Thirty-five percent are involved in product sales for which outbound calls are made. Twenty-four percent are into customer service, telecommunications, and education on which inbound calls focus, 10 percent handle finance and 6 percent IT.

Although most outsourced organizations serve foreign clients (56 percent), our survey also reveals that some serve both local and foreign customers (22 percent). The remaining 22 percent say they only service the Filipino market.

Likes

Technology, such as the Internet and other web tools, has enabled foreign countries like the US to outsource in distant countries. Because foreign nationals are served, Filipinos had to submit themselves to American-accent training and culture orientation. When asked what they like about working for an outsourcing group, 53 percent of the respondents choose new learning skills while 25 percent like the training opportunities.

Forty-three percent select compensation as one of the good benefits from outsourcing companies while others say they are happy about their work schedule (20 percent); talking to foreigners (14 percent); and about the organizational culture (12 percent).

Dislikes

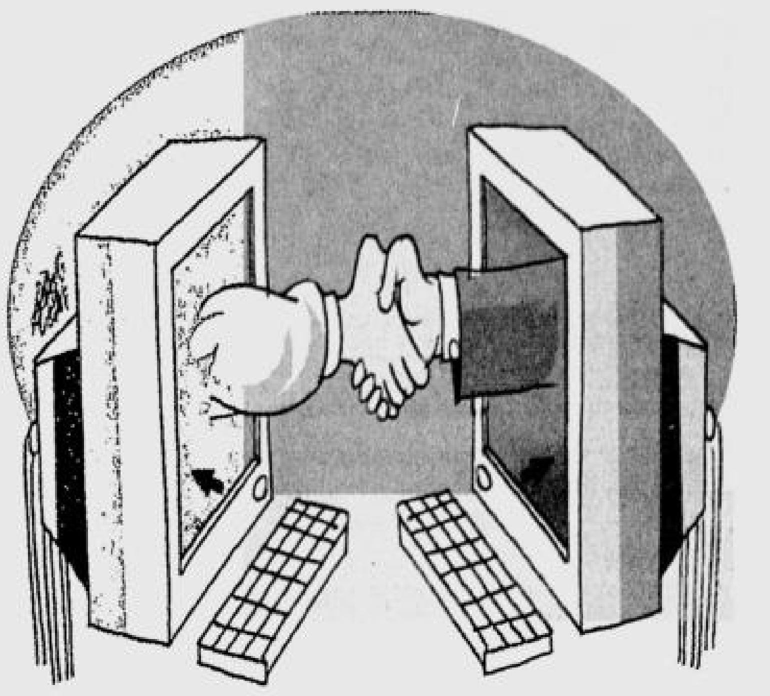
When asked what they do not like about working in outsourcing groups, respondents are least happy about the repetitive or routine nature of their work assignments (37 percent). Because of the time zone difference between RP and the US, most employees from outsourcing organizations work on graveyard shift. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents do not like the work schedule.

A quarter of the respondents (25 percent) said they do not like the unpredictable work volume. Other factors mentioned were: job insecurity (16 percent), irate customers (10 percent), and lack of decision-making opportunities (10 percent).

Future of outsourcing

Given the dearth of employment opportunities in the country, it is likely that outsourcing will continue to be important in keeping our country's economy viable. With the high unemployment rate, outsourcing organizations, at least for now, will still continue to attract jobseekers. However, whether or not these employees will stay will likely depend on the extent to which individual organizations can respond to the concerns raised. For fresh graduates, it is important that they are aware of both the pros and cons of outsourcing work so they are prepared to face the challenges of working in such types of organizations.

(Mr. Mitchie M. Arcaina is a graduate student in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University and a telecommunications employee. For more inquiries about this study, please contact ateneocord@admu.edu.ph)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Measuring your performance at work

PEOPLE AT WORK AND THE Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from last month's survey are **Mary Grace B. Bual** and **Maria Leticia R. Delos Reyes.** (Please contact Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. In your current job, do you have targets or measurable goals that would define your job performance?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not Sure
2. Are these targets or measure of accomplishment discussed or given to you?
   a. Discussed
   b. Given to me
   c. I set my own targets
   d. I don't have any target or measure of accomplishment
3. How often do you have a performance review?
   a. Monthly
   b. Four times a year (quarterly)
   c. Twice a year
   d. Once a year
   e. none
4. Who rates your performance?
   a. Immediate supervisor
   b. Self
   c. Peers
   d. All of the above
   e. Others (please specify) ________________
5. My performance rating determines ____________?
   a. Salary increases
   b. Promotion
   c. Areas of development and training needs
   d. Regularization/ Permanency
   e. All of the above
   f. Others (please specify) ________________

Name: ________________
Gender: __________ Age: _____ Status: __________
Nature of the Job: __________ Position: __________
Company name: ________________
Industry: __________ No. of years working: __________
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Mail or fax this form, e-mail or text your answers to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2nd flr. Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Quezon City. Fax (632) 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. Name, gender, age, status, position, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

Poor diet means decreased productivity

SWITZERLAND, GENEVA—A poor diet on the job costs the world as much as 20 percent in lost production, with workers in poor countries too malnourished to do their jobs properly while their counterparts in industrialized nations are too fat, an International Labour Office (ILO) study says.

"Poor meal programs and poor nutrition underlie so many workplace issues: morale, safety, productivity and the long-term health of the workers and nations. But few workers are happy with their meal arrangements," said the study's author Christopher Wanjek in a statement Saturday.

Even if employees had access to canteens at work, the fare was often monotonous and unhealthy, while vending machines were stocked with fatty snacks, the study found.

Local restaurants were often costly, street food posed risks of food poisoning, or workers had neither the time nor the place to eat a healthy meal.

"Too often, food at work is seen as an afterthought or a hindrance by employers and is often a 'missed opportunity' to increase productivity and morale," the ILO said.

The study found workplace meal programs could prevent nutrient deficiencies, chronic diseases and obesity while increasing output.

Modest investments in such programs would soon repay employers through reduced sick days and accidents, the ILO said.

"It is important to note how prevalent iron deficiency is and how cheaply it can be remedied. Low iron, which affects up to half the world's population, is tied to sluggishness and diminished cognitive ability, and thus accidents and low productivity," Wanjek said.

Iron deficiency alone cost southeast Asian countries about $5 billion (four billion euros) per year in lost production. Malnutrition cost India $10-28 billion, equivalent to 3-9 percent of its gross domestic product.

The world was confronted by a rapidly deteriorating "food gap," with a billion people suffering from malnutrition while a similar number in wealthy nations were over weight or obese, the study found.

"Wealthy nations face the staggering cost of chronic diseases and obesity. Neighborhood intervention isn't working. Providing healthy food at work is the best way to get people to eat at least one healthy meal a day," Wanjek said.

Access to healthy food at work was as important for employees as protection from hazardous chemicals and industrial noise, the ILO said.

Diet-related diseases accounted for about 46 percent of illnesses and 60 percent of deaths worldwide in 2001, while cardiovascular disease accounted for 30 percent of deaths.

In the United States, where more than two-thirds of the population is overweight, obesity cost business $12.7 billion a year in insurance, paid sick leave and other costs, the study said. *AFP*

Innovative mechanical ...

From page B6

Alonzo or Montoya in the Formula One race all have the discipline of a mechanical engineer. Bayani Fernando is a mechanical engineer and so was former President Ramon Magsaysay," he says.

This passion for mechanics traces back to his childhood. As a young boy, he would often disassemble and reassemble his toys trying to figure their complex mechanisms. "I love to tinker with things. I also made toys on my own using whatever items I can find. I would show them to my friends. I felt very proud whenever I accomplished something, which my playmates were not capable of doing," the mechanical engineer recalls.

The fascination for machines is based on his belief that machines are our partners in progress. But more than steam boilers, forklifts and power generation plants, he believes that the most important progress resource is manpower. "When I am able to develop somebody whose performance is below norm into a world-class operator, who can deliver world class products, which can compete against the best in the world, then I am fulfilled."

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

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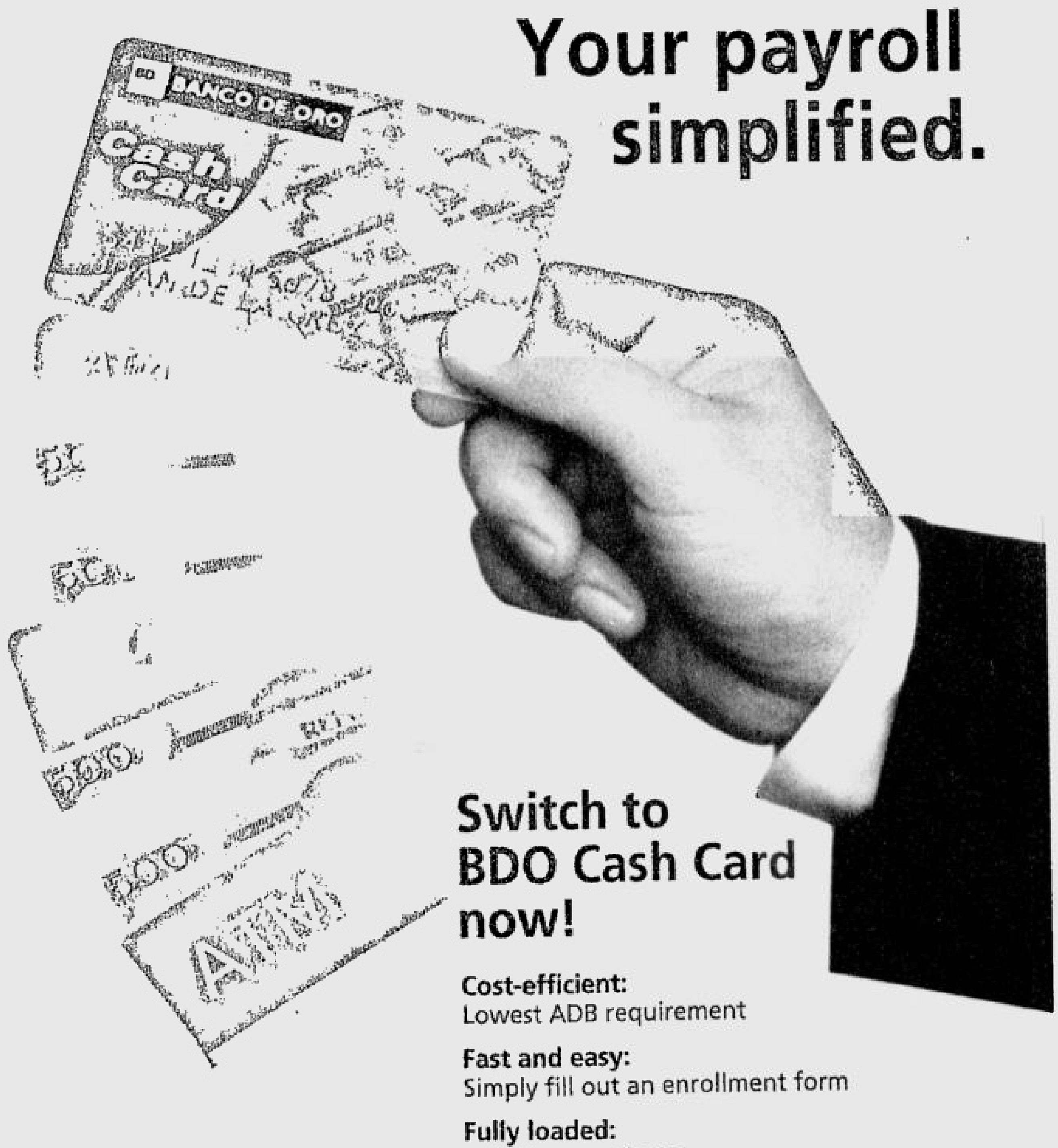
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The Area Activation Executive will identify activation opportunities within his area of assignment, will analyze area reports as well as ULP Brand strategies, channel and flow of ULP good, and will translate these to concrete action plans for the area. He will also ensure that activation plans of the area are aligned with the LEVER Framework. The successful candidate will serve as a gatekeeper of the activation proposals submitted by the Area Activation Agency and Area Activation Coordinator.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Male, not more that 24 years of age
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, Economics or Commerce
- Must be a fresh graduate from UP Visayas, University of Saint La Salle, Silliman University, or University of San Carlos
- Must be at the top 10% of his graduating class, with strong leadership background
- Must be fluent in English and Filipino
- Must be willing to be assigned in Cebu

SALES CONSULTANT – CAGAYAN DE ORO

The Sales Consultant will be accountable in developing customer business through preparation and execution of CBDP, management of orders, receivable, promotion & merchandising with customers, sustaining and enhancing strategic partnership status with key customers, as well as developing thought leadership status in the industry with customer projects. He/she must deliver NPS target achievement, AR % current and activities implementation.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Male or Female, not more that 28 years of age
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, Economics or Commerce
- Must be a graduate of Xavier University, Ateneo de Davao, or Mindanao State University
- Must be at the top 10% of his /her graduating class, with strong leadership background
- Must be fluent in English and Filipino
- Must be willing to be assigned in Cagayan de Oro

INTERESTED APPLICANTS FROM THE VISAYAS and MINDANAO REGIONS MAY SEND THEIR APPLICATION FORMS AND RESUMES VIA EMAIL TO:
grace.serna@unilever.com or aileen.segura@unilever.com
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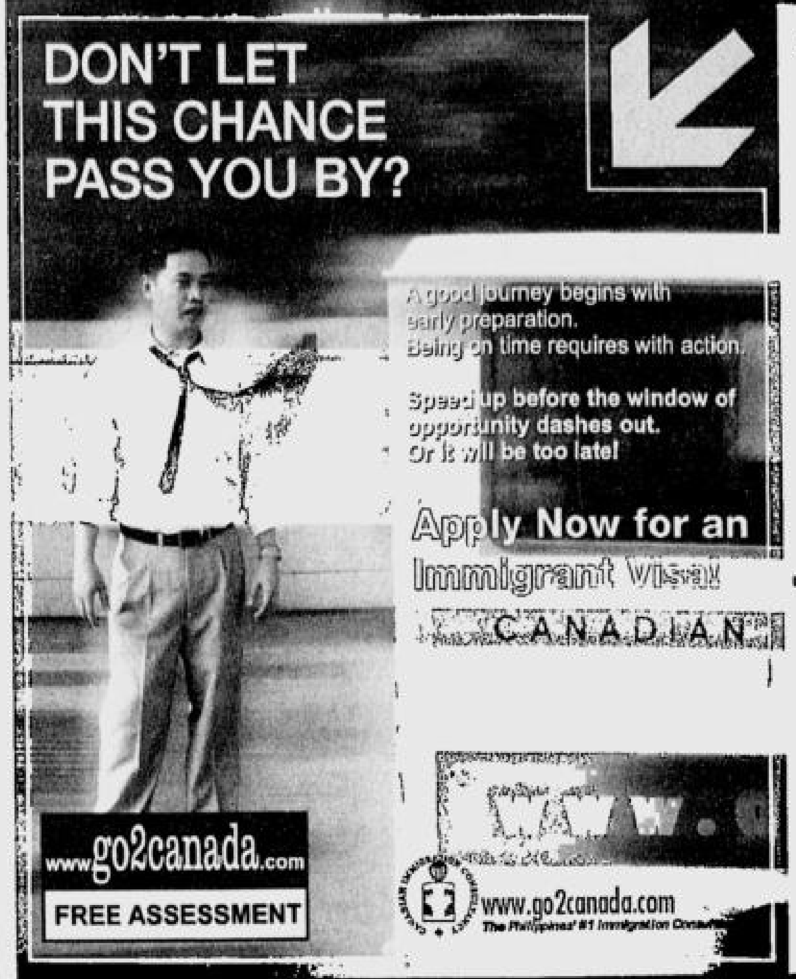
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- **Alabang - Wednesdays @ 6PM** - See contact details above.
- **Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Binondo - Mondays to Saturdays** - See contact details above.
- **Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 10AM - 6PM** - See contact details above.
- **Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM** - See contact details above.
- **West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM** - See contact details above.

PROVINCIAL SEMINARS

- **NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM** - See contact details above.
- **DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM** - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- **September 18 SOLANO, NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM** - Bread N' Bites National Highway Solano [Call Ms Mona (078)332.2084 / 0926.493.5763 | Gold (02)879.0217 / 0916.749.8320 | Sid (02)879.0301 | 0919.748.4536]
- **September 24 LIPA BATANGAS @ 9AM** - Max Restaurant, Pres. Laurel Highway, Pilahan Sabang, Lipa City [Call Susan 0919.353.9491 | Emily 0916.681.7891 / 8790311 / 8790313]
- **September 24 TARLAC CITY @ 9AM** - La Maja Rica Hotel & Restaurant, Ligtasan Mc Arthur Highway [Call Angie (045) 611.2051 to 2053 | Grace (02) 879.8396]
- **September 25 ISABELA @ 2PM** - King George Hotel, Bonifacio Ave. Cor. Maharlika Highway, Victory Norte Santiago City [Call (078) 682 8434 / 5508 | Gold (02) 879.0217 / 0916.749.8320]
- **September 25 URDANETA, PANGASINAN @ 2PM** - Majoha Hotel & Restaurant, Mc Arthur Hi-way, Nancayasan [Call (078) 682.8434 / 5508 | Gold (02) 879 0217 / 0916.749.8320]
- **October 1 OLONGAPO CITY @ 4PM** - Zanzibar Hotel, 45 Magsaysay Drive, Olongapo City [Call Maribeth (047) 223-3080 | Susie Sonza 879-0218]
- **October 2 BALANGA, BATAAN @ 10AM** - Chowking Balanga, Aguirre St. Poblacion Balanga City Bataan [Call Haydee Palad (047) 791.5712 | Lyn 0920.226-4744 | Vanessa 0919.473-2442]
- **October 2 CALAMBA LAGUNA @ 2PM** - Riverview Resort & Conference Center, National Hi-way Parian, [Call Minnie (049)545 1278 / 545 1856 | Grace (02) 879. 8396]
- **October 15 SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM** - Olongapo Gapan Road, San Fernando City, Pampanga [Call Lito David (045) 963.7434 / 961.3900 | Grace Antojo (02) 879.8396]
- **October 29 LIGTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM** - La Maja Rica Hotel Mc Arthur Hiway, Ligtasan, Tarlac City [Call Angie Pamintuan (045) 611-2051/2053 | Grace Antojo (02) 879.8396]

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National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
Tel. No. (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/ 9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-10A

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
3DII-05-093	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	1500 PCS	P 2,700,000.00
3LAG-05-231	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 69KV TL	592 PCS	711,000.00
3LAG-05-230	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	1333 PCS	2,400,000.00
3DII-05-130	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	887 PCS	2,485,000.00
3LAG-05-206	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	555 PCS	667,062.00
3D30-05-176	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 69KV TL	2540 PCS	3,048,000.00
3D30-05-175	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	2750 PCS	4,950,000.00
3D30-05-131	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, SEMI-CONDUCTING GLAZE, FOR 230KV TL	1000 PCS	4,500,000.00
BAT-05-041	INSULATOR, PORCELAIN, FOR 230KV TL	196 PCS	549,500.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities			Schedule	
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents		Sept. 21 - Oct. 17, 2005	
2.	Pre-bid Conference		October 5, 2005	1:30 PM
3.	Opening of Bids	3D11-05-093	October 18, 2005	9:00 AM
		3LAG-05-231	October 18, 2005	10:30 AM
		3LAG-05-230	October 18, 2005	1:30 PM
		3DII-05-130	October 18, 2005	3:30 PM
		3LAG-05-206	October 18, 2005	4:00 PM
		3D30-05-176	October 19, 2005	9:00 AM
		3D30-05-175	October 19, 2005	10:30 AM
		3D30-05-131	October 19, 2005	1:30 PM
		BAT-05-041	October 19, 2005	3:30 PM

Bid Documents will be available to prospectibe bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporaton assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net

(Sgd.) **R. B. VERGARA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2005)

PHILPOST

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION
Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation, through its Special Bids and Awards Committee for Vehicle Acquisition Project invites Motor Vehicle Dealers/Distributors with direct tie-up with a specific vehicle manufacturer to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project Name : Enhancement of the Mail Distribution Network in the Philippines
Identification Index No. : QSFPHL0405SPR02
Procurement Description : Procurement of Vehicles for Mail Operations

SOURCE OF FUND	PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENT	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET PER CLASSIFICATION OF VEHICLE (IN US DOLLAR)	CONTRACT PERIOD
Quality Service Fund Project of the Universal Postal Union	Original and brand-new left-hand drive cab and chassis with van	Small¹	28	294,893.64	Ninety (90) Calendar Days
		Light²	12	191,741.47	
		Medium³	9	167,133.94	

Prospective bidders should have at least five (5) years experience in the actual selling of original and brand-new vehicles and at least three (3) years in handling fleet acquisition transactions with an amount of at least fifty (50%) of the proposed budget for the procurement for bidding. The accreditation and eligibility check and the preliminary examination of the bid proposals shall use the pass/fail criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Particulars relative to the accreditation and eligibility check/screening, pre-bid conferences, bid security, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and award of the procurement contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedules of the bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	
	DATE	TIME
Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	September 21, 2005	10:00 A.M.
Deadline for the Submission of Accreditation Requirements	October 5, 2005	04:00 P.M.
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 14, 2005	04:00 P.M.
Pre Bid Conferences	October 21 & 28, 2005	01:00 PM
Deadline for the Submission of Bid Proposal	November 7, 2005	09:00 A.M.
Opening of Bids	November 7, 2005	10:00 A.M.

All prospective bidders shall pay a one (1) time non-refundable accreditation and eligibility fee. The following are the fees for the procurement for bidding:

FEE	AMOUNT (In Philippine Peso)
Accreditation Fee	500.00
Eligibility Fee	1,000.00
Bid Documents for Small Commercial Vehicle	8,000.00
Bid Documents for Light Commercial Vehicle	5,000.00
Bid Documents for Medium Commercial Vehicle	5,000.00

Interested bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the accreditation, eligibility and bid documents from MR. ROGER TUMLOS, Secretariat of the BAC for Vehicle Project at the Legal Service, 3rd Floor, Left Wing Manila Central Post Office Building, Philippine Postal Corporation, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila - telephone no. 5270125.

The Philpost and/or the UPU-QSF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the awarding of the contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

APPROVED

(Sgd.) **LUIS D. CARLOS**
Chairman, BAC for Vehicle Project

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 28, 2005)

Date of Publication:	PDI	September 21 and 28, 2005
Website:	GEPS	Starting September 21, 2005
	UPU-QSF	Starting September 21, 2005
Bulletin Board	PhilPost	Starting September 21, 2005

Bayview Rewards Club launched Sep. 22

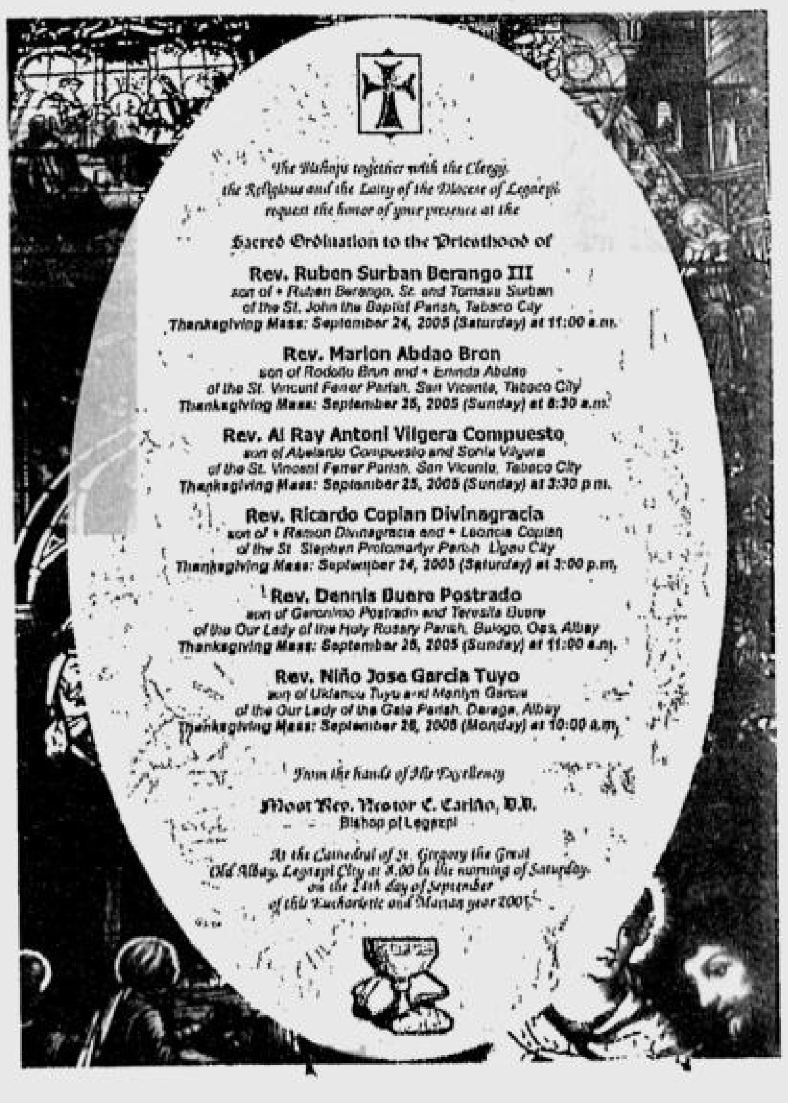
BAYVIEW PARK HOTEL MANILA, 'your home by the bay', will launch its most ambitious and fabulous special event of the year dubbed as "Bayview Rewards Club—Carnivale Madness" on Sep. 22, 7 p.m. to be held at Manila Bay Grand Ballroom.

Marie Jean P Cordero, sales and marketing director, said that this grand event will include exciting games and fun-filled activities such as the bestowing of the best outfit and headwear award and lots more prizes.

Sponsors are Star Cruises; Pagcor; Amazing Philippines Co; RMN Networks; Wine Depot; Jam 88.3; Wedding Works-Chocolate Fountain; Nestle Philippines-Milo; Woman Today; Avon Cosmetics Inc; Saralee; Rustan Marketing Corp; Citibank-Tauyan Marketing; Peach Petals Plus Parties; Philippine Tourism Authority; Masaito Development Corp; Cebuana Roast; Uni President; Marks & Spencer; and Bioessence.

For reservations and inquiries, call 526-1555 local 1727 or 526-1538. Bayview Park Hotel is located at 1118 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, fronting US Embassy.

TRANSCO'S MINDANAO O&M RECEIVES ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFICATION
The National Transmission Corporation's Mindanao Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Group is the firm's latest recipient of the prestigious ISO 9001:2000 certification for quality management. During awarding rites held recently in Iligan City, TransCo president and CEO Alan T. Ortiz, Ph.D. congratulated AVP for Mindanao O&M Lorrymir Adasa and his group for their latest achievement. Shown from left are TransCo Mindanao District 4 manager Avelino Dawis, Visayas System Operations AVP Bingbong Lamayan (who was Mindanao's original Quality Management Representative), AVP Adasa, TUV's Carmina Espiron, president Ortiz, OIC-VP VisMin O&M Jules Alcantara, TransCo's ISO guru Faustino Manlucu and TUV's Ms. Amper.



The Bishop together with the Clergy
the Religious and the Laity of the Diocese of Legazpi
request the honor of your presence at the

Sacred Ordination to the Priesthood of

Rev. Ruben Surban Berango III
son of + Ruben Berango, Sr. and Tomasa Surban
of the St. John the Baptist Parish, Tabaco City
Thanksgiving Mass: September 24, 2005 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Marlon Abdao Bron
son of Rodolfo Bron and + Ernida Abdao
of the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, San Vicente, Tabaco City
Thanksgiving Mass: September 25, 2005 (Sunday) at 8:30 a.m.

Rev. Al Ray Antoni Vilgera Compuesto
son of Abelardo Compuesto and Sonia Vilgera
of the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, San Vicente, Tabaco City
Thanksgiving Mass: September 25, 2005 (Sunday) at 3:30 p.m.

Rev. Ricardo Coplan Divinagracia
son of + Ramon Divinagracia and + Leoncia Coplan
of the St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish, Ligao City
Thanksgiving Mass: September 24, 2005 (Saturday) at 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Dennis Buere Postrado
son of Geronimo Postrado and Teresita Buere
of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, Bulogo, Oas, Albay
Thanksgiving Mass: September 25, 2005 (Sunday) at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Niño Jose Garcia Tuyo
son of Ukiano Tuyo and Marilyn Garcia
of the Our Lady of the Gate Parish, Daraga, Albay
Thanksgiving Mass: September 26, 2005 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.

From the hands of His Excellency

Most Rev. Nestor C. Cariño, D.D.
Bishop of Legazpi

At the Cathedral of St. Gregory the Great
Old Albay, Legazpi City at 8:00 in the morning of Saturday
on the 24th day of September
of this Eucharistic and Marian year 2005.

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Our beloved Mama

Adoracion Guinaling Cal

of # 51 Tibungco, Davao City

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2005
at the age of 82.

Her children, **Emma & Antonio Sr., Elisa** and **Moises**

Grandchildren: **Iris, Mia, Hiro & Katkat, Dodong & Grace, Moelisa, Noli & Lorna, Marissa, Dory, Junjun & Pengpeng.**

Great Grandchildren: **Koykoy, Jonjon, Florflor & Dodong, Angelica, Angelu & Debon**, nephews and nieces and relatives
Request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in her residence at # 51 Tibungco, Davao City.
Interment will be at 2:00 PM of September 24, 2005
at St. Francis Xavier Parish
Tibungco, Davao City

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

SISTER JOCELYN LANUZA, S.Sp.S.

On September 20, 2005 at the age of 56.
at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Sta. Mesa Manila.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Friday, September 23, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.
At the Convent of the Holy Spirit
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City

Interment will follow
At the Christ the King Cemetery
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

DOMINGO RAMIN REBANCOS

*Peacefully joined his Creator on **September 19, 2005** at the age of 66.*

His body lies in state at
Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapels Antipolo City.

Cremation will be on **September 22, 2005 at 9:00 am**
Loyola Crematorium Marikina City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
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CLASSIFIEDS

POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the following:

Lease of a parcel of land located at the Naga Power Plant Complex in Colon, Naga, Cebu

(the "Land"). The Land is being offered for lease on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a letter of interest ("LOI") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative and with latest audited financial statements attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 3, 2005 (the LOI Submission Deadline). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the proposed lease of the Land.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $200.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of October 4, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the proposed lease of the Land.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.) from September 26, 2005 until October 5, 2005 at 5:00 p. m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in bidding.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Pre-bid Conference:	**October 6, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office**
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM:	**To be announced by PSALM to Bidders at a later date**

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security (in an amount to be determined by PSALM and communicated later to the Bidders through a Supplemental Bid Bulletin) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. The winning bidder shall be required to construct and operate a power plant on the Land with a capacity of at least one hundred megawatts (100 MW). Other details of the bidding, including due diligence and obligations of bidders and the proposed lease of the Land, are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the bidding process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the bidding process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

NIEVES L. OSORIO (Original Sgd.)
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Sept 21 & 28 2005)

PEOPLESUPPORT
TECHNOLOGY POWERED. GLOBALLY POSITIONED. VALUE DRIVEN.

HOMECREDIT, PEOPLESUPPORT INK MOA

A Memorandum of Agreement between HomeCredit Mutual & Building Loan Association and PeopleSupport Philippines was signed recently wherein HomeCredit shall provide a home financing facility through a disciplined savings program to employees of PeopleSupport. The contract was signed by HomeCredit President Ronnie B. Alcantara and PeopleSupport Vice President for Global Human Resources Rozi S. Ricafrente. Photo shows (seated from left): Imee Espeleta, PeopleSupport compensation officer; Rozi Ricafrente; Ronnie Alcantara; Eloise Autor, PeopleSupport compensation & benefits manager. Standing form left: Reddie Luz, HomeCredit manager for membership; Dondi G. Martinez, HomeCredit vice president for sales; Bridge Burgos PeopleSupport benefits officer; Chito S. Del Rosario, HomeCredit general manager; and Ida W. Atayde, HomeCredit manager for business development.

TIKI-TIKI plus
UNITED AMERICAN
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TIKI-TIKI PLUS DROPS LAUNCHES BIGATING BINYAGAN CARAVAN

The country's leading multivitamins for babies Tiki-Tiki Plus Drops from United Laboratories, Inc. (Unilab) recently launched the "Tiki-Tiki Plus Drops Bigating Binyagan Caravan" where more that 3,000 newly-baptized babies in 57 churches in Metro Manila will be given free Tiki-Tiki Plus Drops and bibs. Initial run of the Caravan has covered the following churches: Immaculate Conception Church in Tayuman; St. Joseph Parish, Sto. Nino Church and San Pablo Apostol in Tondo; Our Lady of Loreto Parish in Sampaloc; and Most Holy Trinity Parish in Blumentritt. It will run until November 2005. Tiki-Tiki Plus Drops gives all essential vitamins like A, B-complex, C, D and E, making it the ideal multivitamins for babies and toddlers aged 12-months-old and below. The Bigating Binyagan Caravan, organized by the Consumer Health Group of Unilab, is consistent with the company's mission of nurturing the Filipino family by ensuring good health and growth of Filipino babies.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-269	2 units Sorter Machine (Desktop Type Machine) Plus: Three (3) Years Maintenance Service	P 20,000,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-277	70,000 pcs. LANDBANK T-Shirt	5,250,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on October 11, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon **payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 and P1,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-269 and 2005-277, respectively.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 29, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 28, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 204
CITY OF MUNTINLUPA

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR
INVOLUNTARY INSOLVENCY
SPS. ROSARIO A. BALADJAY
SATURNINO BALADJAY, ET. AL., Debtors

- versus -

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 03-026

ANNE MARIE CABALLERO, ET. AL., Petitioners,

ROMEO G. MANGALINO, ET. AL., Intervenors.

AMENDED ORDER

For failure of the debtors to file their Manifestation within ten (10) days as per Order of the Court dated April 21, 2005, the Court has to give due consideration to the evidence presented by the Petitioners. Petitioners prayed, among others, that after notice and hearing, to declare as Insolvent, solidary DEBTORS Rosario A. Baladjay, Saturnino Baladjay, MULTITEL, Multitel International Holdings Incorporated (MIHI) and MIHI's subsidiaries namely MULTITEL Communications Corp., MULTITEL Consultancy Group, Inc., RAB Realty, Inc., and Richville Travels and Tours, Inc., and Polished Arrow Holdings, Inc., and that their assets, including those in the name of their conduits, be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Law; and to order the dissolution of Multitel, MIHI and MIHI's subsidiaries so that their assets may be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisioins of the Insolvency Law.

To support Petitioners claim, aside from the voluminous documentary evidence they presented Carlos Pardo Rubi for Intervenor Edmundo Rubi, Joseph Gallano Dela Cruz, Melchor Briones Orais, Rafael Asuncion Manalo, Romeo Mangalino y Galicia, Elvira Reyes Oliva, Nestor Boyd Tinio, Joseph Monel Belmonte and Sergio Theodoro Santos, for the other creditors, all of whom testified that they were all investors of the aforementioned debtors who failed to return, after demand, their money invested amounting to Millions of Pesos excluding the US Dollars when they became due.

The Joint Receivers, Leila Ira and Dr. Rafael Manalo submitted Reports to the effect that they have validated claims of the creditors amounting to **Four Billion Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One Pesos and Thirty-Nine Centavos in the Philippine Peso (Php. 4,278,999,241.39) inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, and Forty Million Five Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen and Fifty-Seven Dollars (US$ 40,544,714.57), inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, as against One Billion Six Hundred Ninety-Seven Million Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos and Ninety-Three Centavos in Philippine Peso (Php. 1,697,229,456.93) and in US Dollars Five Million Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven and Eighty-Six (US$ 5,532,887.86) of the Debtors' properties and assets.**

After a careful examination of the records presented, it is clear that the Debtors defaulted in the payment of their current obligation and have failed after demand for a period way beyond what is provided for by law to pay all monies invested with them. Hence, the Court is convinced that the Debtors have commited acts of insolvency under Section 20 of the Insolvency Law (Act No. 1956), which provides that:

> "Section 20. xxx The following shall be considered acts of insolvency, and the petition for insolvency shall set forth one or more of such acts: xxx (11) that being a merchant or tradesman he has generally defaulted in the payment of his current obligations for a period of thirty days, (12) that for a period of thirty days he has failed after demand, to pay any moneys deposited with him or received by him in a fiduciary capacity, xxx."

WHEREFORE, the Court hereby adjudges that the following debtors are and were at the time of the filing of the Petition, an INSOLVENT, and they were guilty of the acts and things charged in the Petition:

1. Rosario A. Baladjay
2. Saturino Baladjay
3. Multitel International Holdings Incorporated
4. Multinational Telecom Investors Corporation
5. Multitel Communications Corporation
6. Multitel Consultancy Group Incorporated
7. RAB Realty Incorporated
8. Richvile Travel and Tours Incorporated
9. Polished Arrows Holdings Incorporated

Pursuant to Section 24 of the Insolvency Law, the aforementioned persons and companies are hereby directed within three (3) days from receipt of this Order, to submit to this Court duly verified copies of the follwing:

1. **A Schedule of Debts and Liabilities** containing a full and true statement of all the debts and liabilities with a list of those to whom to the best of their knowledge and beliefs, said debts or liabilities are due, the place or residence of the creditors and the sum due each, the nature of indebtedness or liability and whether founded on written security, obligation, contract or otherwise, the true cause and consideration thereof, the time and place when and where such indebtedness or liability accrued, a declaration of any existing pledge, lien mortgage, judgment, or other security for the payment of the debt or liability, and an outline of the facts giving rise or which might give rise to a cause of action against it; and
2. **An Inventory of Assets** containing, besides the receivable credits, an accurate description of all the Responsdent's real and personal properties, and effects, if any, together with a statement of the value of each item of said properties, effects and their location, and a statement of encumbrances thereon. All Respondent's properties exempt by law from execution should also be set out in said Inventory with a statement of its valuation, location, and the encumbrances thereon, if any. The Inventory should contain an outline of the facts giving rise, or which might give rise, to a right of action in Respondent's favor.

Accordingly, with the herein declaration of Involuntary Insolvency, all civil proceedings against said DEBTORS before any court, tribunal, office, board, body, Commission or sheriff are hereby deemed suspended. Consequently, all pending incidents for preliminary injunctions, writ of attachments, writs of execution, foreclosures and like are hereby rendered moot and academic

The Receiver, Dr. Rafael A. Manalo, is directed to take possession of, and safely keep until the election of an assignee, all the deeds, vouchers book of accounts, papers, notes, bills and securities of the aforementioned persons and companies and all their personal properties, estate and effects, except those exempt from execution. In view thereof, all persons and entities owing money to the DEBTORS are hereby forbidden to make payment for its account or to deliver or transfer any property to DEBTORS or to any person for DEBTORS, except to the duly designated assignees.

For purposes of choosing the assignees of the estate of the aforementioned persons and companies, a meeting of all CREDITORS is set on December 14, 2005 at around 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the NBP Sunken Garden, New Bilibid Prison Reservation, Muntinlupa City. All other creditors who have not been validated by the Joint Receivers and have not filed their claims directly in Court at least Thirty (30) Days before the date set herein, are disqualified to vote for the assignees.

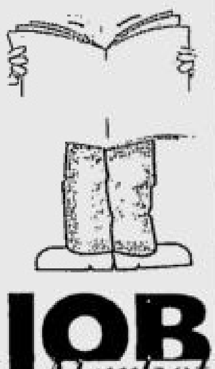
Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks **Petitioners-in-Intervention Romeo G. Mangalino, et al., and Edmundo Rubi, thru their Counsels, Attys. Mindamar Somera and Kathleen L. Ancanan, and Attys. Preston F. Villasis and Siena Therese Sontillano, respectively, are hereby deputized to cause such publication not later than September 30, 2005, and upon the filing of the Schedule above required to be submitted, to send copies of this Order by personal delivery and/or registered mail to all creditors listed in the said Schedule, and submit proofs thereof within five days from completion.**

SO ORDERED.

City of Muntinlupa , July 22, 2005.

JUANITA T. GUERRERO
Judge

(PDI--Sept. 21, 2005)



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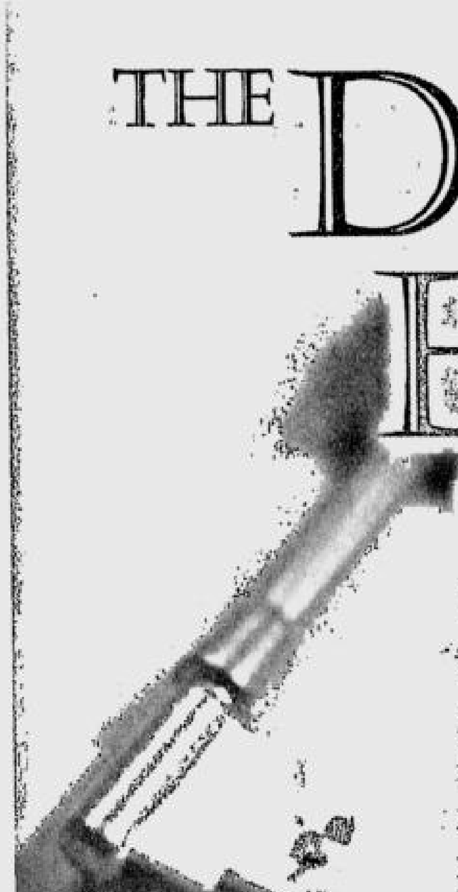

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Gov't to bid out $867-M LRT1 project

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS planning to bid out the construction of the $867-million, 12-kilometer extension of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 to Cavite from Baclaran.

The International Finance Corp. has advised the government to walk away from the deal offered by Canada's SNC Lavalin, because the World Bank arm believed the offer of the firm was expensive, according to a director of the Light Rail Transit Authority.

The 17-kilometer Metro Rail Transit 3 was built for less than $700 million, according to the LRTA director.

SNC Lavalin also sought some form of a government guarantee on the project, which made its offer even more disadvantageous, the LRTA official said.

"The government is no longer interested in the offer of SNC Lavalin," said the member of the railway board. "We already told [the Canadian firm] about the plan to sever ties. We were advised by IFC not to push through with it."

The LRTA is consulting with the IFC on the extension of Line 1 to Cavite. The 12-kilometer extension from Baclaran to Bacoor is one of the priority projects of the Arroyo administration and is supposed to be on stream by 2009.

The government received an unsolicited offer from SNC Lavalin more than five years ago. But the project could not proceed because of doubts as to whether the Canadian firm's offer was sound from the government's fiscal and financial perspective.

The LRTA is proposing to pay SNC Lavalin another $5 million for the feasibility study and development plans. The government had already paid the Canadian firm $5 million, although the company said it spent $20 million.

"We want to bid out the [LRTA] project, this time to get solicited offers, which we believe would be cheaper," said an LRTA official.

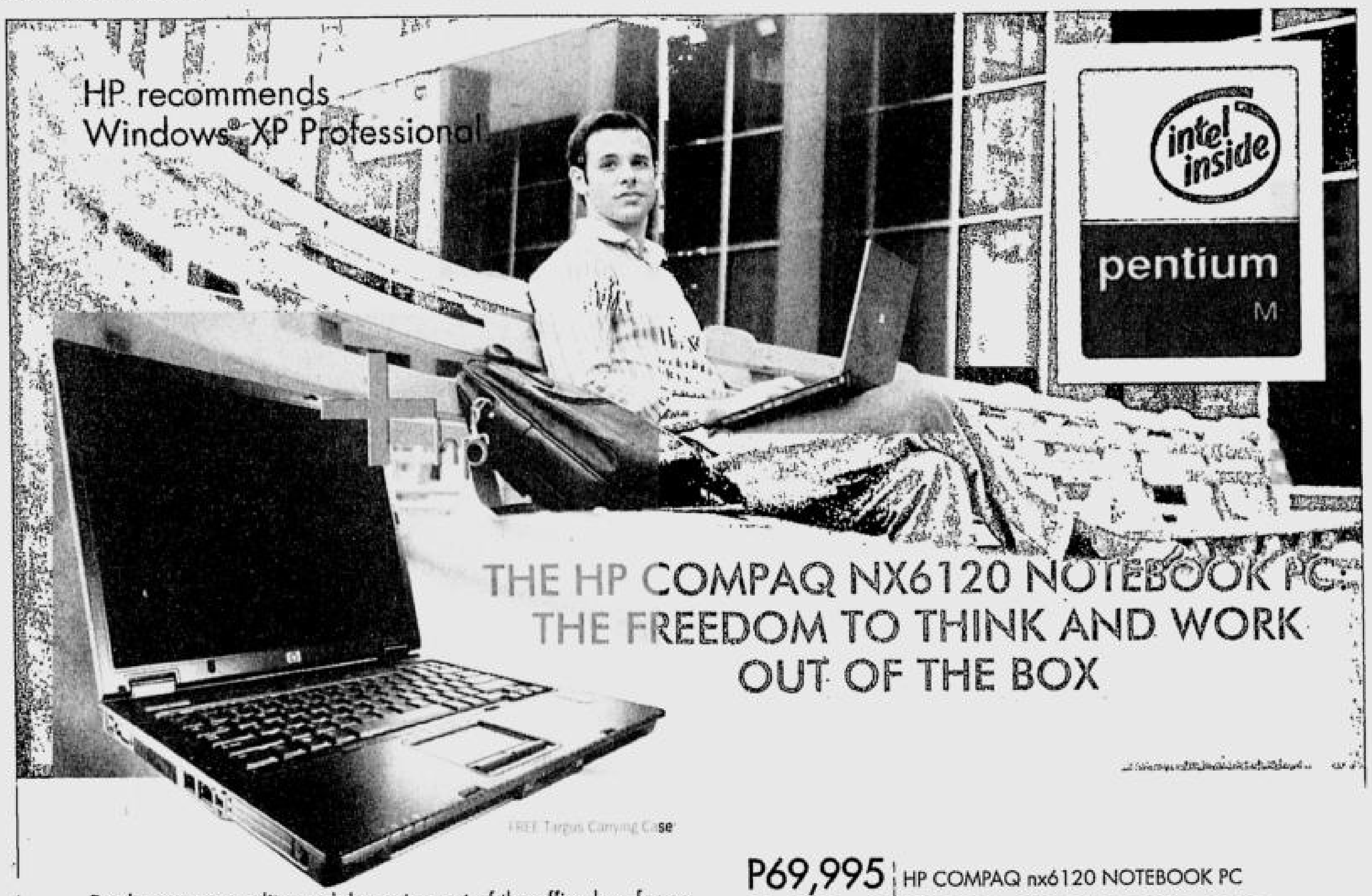
The Canadian firm is offering to build the railway for more than $70 million per kilometer, according to an LRTA director.

The first phase of the LRTA Line 1 extension will lengthen the railway up to Bacoor in Cavite, with a projected ridership of 400,000 passengers daily.

It may later be extended further to Imus, beside Bacoor, and then to Dasmariñas, also in Cavite. LRT Line 1 carries an average of 350,000 passengers a day.

The extension would make the LRT Line 1 the most viable among the mass railway projects.

The LRT Line 1 extension would ease the bottleneck in Bacoor. This could complement the Coastal Road project to run from Bacoor to Kawit and Noveleta.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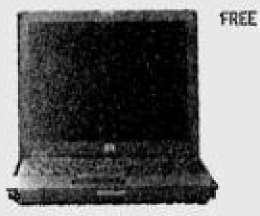
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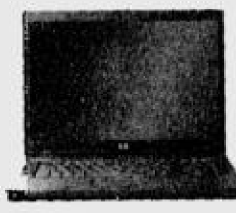
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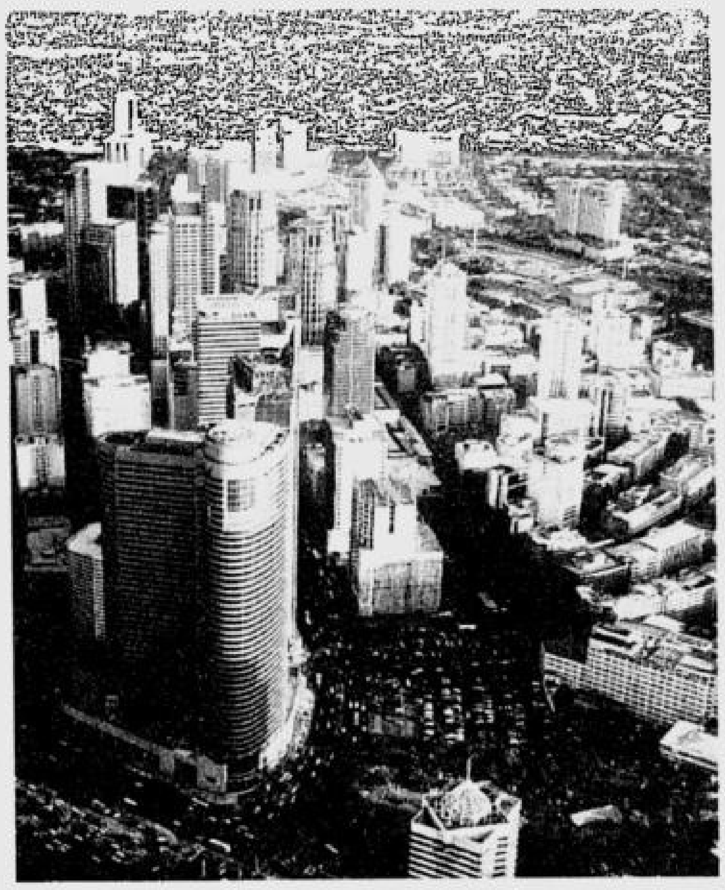
THE PROMISE of increased taxes may just drive away business from the country's premier business district.

High taxes threaten businesses in Makati

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESSES BASED IN MAKATI City are seriously considering relocating to other areas like Taguig, citing the high tax costs in the city, according to industrialist Raul T. Concepcion.

Concepcion said that business owners are doubly worried over a proposal pending in the city council to further raise the taxes.

Concepcion, chief of Concepcion Industries based on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, said business taxes in Makati were almost double those in other areas in Metro Manila.

"If (the City Council) enacts an increase, this would drive away businesses," he said. "Even now, there is talk of moving to Taguig."

The city government at present is mulling over possible revisions in the local revenue code, particularly the shifting of tax rates from municipal grade to city grade.

Makati adopted the status of a chartered city in 1995, but the local government has maintained tax rates at the municipal level over the years.

According to the Barangay San Lorenzo Business Association (BSLBA), City Hall's plan of increasing business tax rates by at least 10 percent would wipe out competitiveness of companies located there.

BSLBA chair Ana Maria C. Tanchanco said the group advocates selective application of the new tax rates by exempting from the increase establishments which are not earning.

Tanchanco said that many firms are eking out just enough to get by, especially at a time when costs are generally increasing.

Tanchanco, like Concepcion, said many businesses were talking about relocating outside Makati.

San Lorenzo, which she said accounts for half of the revenues of the Makati central business district, is host to some of the country's top companies, a number of foreign embassies and five-star hotels and malls, as well as small- and medium-scale operations in retail and services.

According to Tanchanco, some 3,000 of about 8,000 businesses registered in San Lorenzo are corporations, while the rest are small and medium enterprises that are mostly single proprietorship.

She said real property taxes from business sources in Barangay San Lorenzo reached P93 million in 2004 and P48.7 million as of May this year.

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RP arena to intensify Sino-Japanese 'car wars'

By Tessa R. Salazar

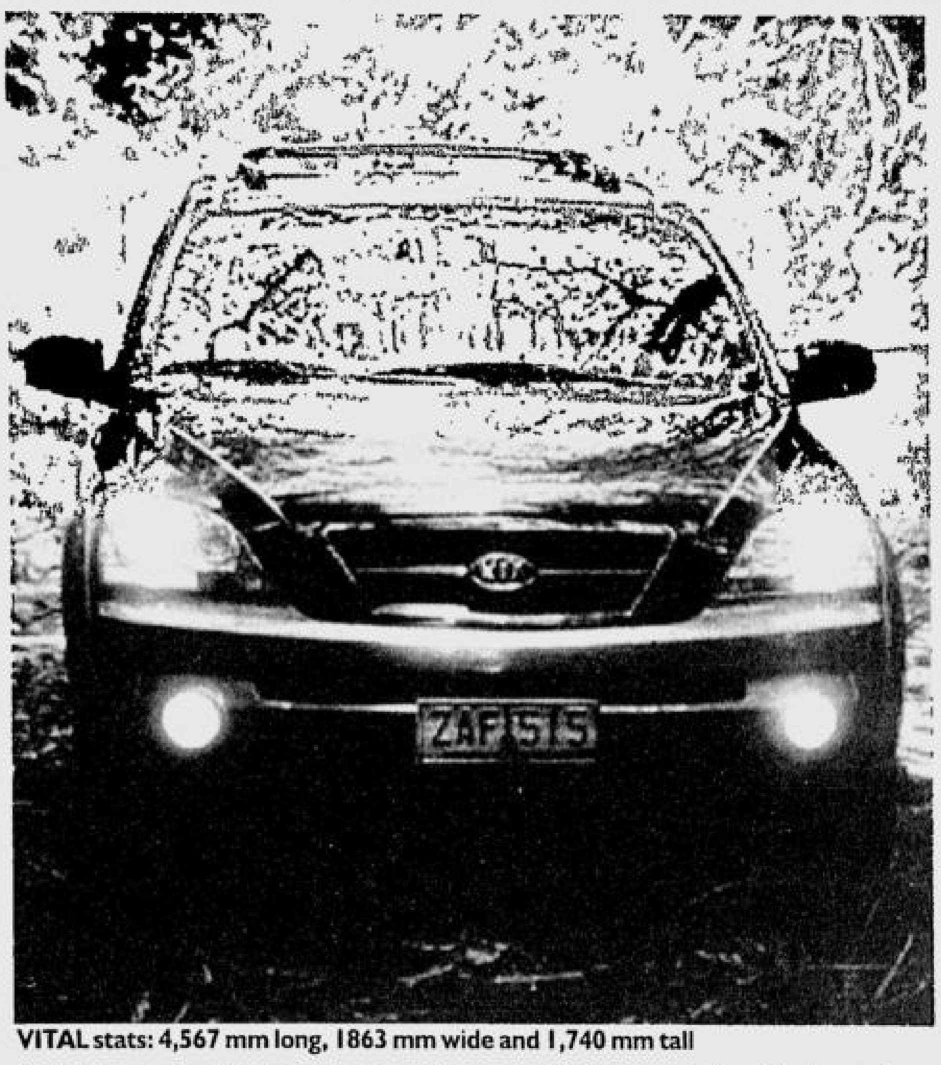
THE KOREANS HAVE INvaded the Philippines, though not in a very disagreeable manner.

Korean culture has invaded our way of life, specifically how we spend our "living room lives." "Korea-novelas" are a staple of primetime TV, at times even edging out locally produced shows.

Korean technology, likewise, is also everywhere. Look at the TV set you're watching on. Look at the cell phone you're holding. If it isn't a Japanese brand, chances are it's Korean.

And there are the Korean cars. Once sneered at for being poor imitations of their Japanese counterparts, the Kias and the Hyundais are making grand comebacks, particularly in the diesel and super-mini categories.

BRAWNY look credited from its 225/75 R16 steel belted tires on alloy wheels


VITAL stats: 4,567 mm long, 1863 mm wide and 1,740 mm tall

Korean comeback

The reasons for this great Korean comeback in the Philippine market don't necessarily lie purely in economics. It also has something to do with national pride. Koreans, as we have witnessed in many sporting events (particularly boxing), hate to lose. Especially to perennial regional rival and former colonizer Japan. Koreans—dogged in their determination to match the Japanese pound-for-pound—are making the Philippines, as well as the rest of the Asian market, an arena to show the world that if the Japanese can do it, so can they. And perhaps their products can be even better and cost less.

Helped along by a world economy made volatile by rising oil prices, ultra fuel misers Kia Picanto and Hyundai Getz are holding their own against Honda's Jazz, with advance orders for the Picanto reportedly running into the months. Even at the SUV category, Korean brands are enjoying brisk sales, thanks in large part to relatively lower prices than American and European counterparts and the great improvements in overall vehicle design and diesel engine technologies.

Kia Sorento introduced

In January 2004, the Kia Sorento was introduced as a 3.5-liter V6 gasoline-powered midsize SUV in the Philippines. Shortly after that, local customers were clamoring for the Sorento diesel variant. Early this year, the 2.5-liter CRDi diesel was introduced. The CRDi (common rail direct injection) engine had, by then, become the popular choice for buyers of diesel-powered vehicles because of its power and cleaner emissions (as proven by the immensely popular Hyundai Starex vans).

The new CRDi-powered Sorento, as this writer found out during her Subic ride and drive experience on July 30, no longer used an injection pump to deliver fuel to the combustion chamber. It used a high-pressure pump delivering 1,350 bars of pressure to a common distribution pipe—the rail. And just like the EFIs (electronic fuel injections) of gasoline-powered cars, Sorento's CRDi already had an individual injector that's electronically controlled.

The high pressure optimizes the performance and the burning of the diesel fuel for efficiency in fuel consumption and a more responsive drive.

And being Euro 3 compliant (it has a diesel oxidation catalyst to deal with whatever unburned fuel), Sorento would pass all emission tests with flying colors.

The initial shudder and noise of the engine when starting is attributed to the HLA (hydraulic lash adjuster for the valve), but once the lubricants have warmed up and circulated, the noise is minimized.

'Cable-less' gas pedal

While the front features an independent suspension, the rear is not. The rear rests on a five-link torsion with coil spring. The Sorento still has a chassis, so while you may expect a car-like drive response, don't expect a car-like ride.

Still, the ride is comfortable enough to cushion passengers from the bumps of the road.

The engine response, indeed, is a far cry from what we've been used to in regular diesel engines. Kia engineers also explain that the "cable-less" technology employed in the accelerator system re-

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Oil firms pin hopes on alcohol-blended fuel

By Charles E. Buban

A COUPLE OF WEEKS ago, four oil companies—Seaoil Philippines, Eastern Petroleum, Flying V and USA88—began selling gasoline products containing 10 percent ethanol in their retail stations.

These companies believe that by introducing cheaper ethanol-blended gasoline to the local market, they could help the country lessen its dependence on imported oil and encourage local industries that could manufacture the alcohol product.

The companies at present source their ethanol from abroad. There was an initial shipment of 2.5 million liters and another five million liters are expected by November.

Francis Glenn Yu, president of Seaoil Philippines, is optimistic the country would later on be able to produce its own ethanol.

"Ethanol can be produced locally by processing indigenous agricultural crops like sugarcane, corn and cassava. I believe we have the know-how, although we could always adapt successful models like Brazil, the world's biggest ethanol producer, which began distilling sugarcane in 1975," suggests Yu.

In the Philippines, sugarcane is still the more preferred source for producing ethanol.

In fact, the Sugar Regulatory Administration recently reported that the sugar industry is capable of easily expanding the area for sugarcane production since in the years 2004 to 2005, the country exported, even at a loss, 164,000 metric tons of sugar.

"This is equivalent to 127.4 million liters when converted to ethanol. At present, the country needs at least 100,000-hectare area to supply the present requirement of 400 million liters at 10 percent ethanol mix with gasoline," reveals Yu who believes the development could bring the local sugar industry back to its former glory.

Much simpler

While nature takes billions of years to make petroleum, the technology for producing ethanol is much simpler—through the process of fermentation and distillation, plants like sugarcane, corn, cassava or anything else made of starch could yield this form of alcohol that could run conventional engines.

"Like petroleum, ethanol releases its energy when burned. But unlike petroleum, ethanol is a much cleaner fuel than gasoline, helping fight global warming by producing fewer greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) and cut emissions of other air pollutants, which contribute to the rising rates of respiratory diseases in many cities," says Yu.

But apart from the environmental and health benefits that one can get from using ethanol-blended gasoline, Yu reveals that even at 10 percent alcohol mix, the fuel already provides exceptional engine performance.

"Its high octane rating delivers strong engine performance by helping engines resist detonation so they can run higher compression ratios. In fact, the Indy Racing League announced that it will be switching to a 10 percent ethanol blend in 2006 and 100 percent ethanol blend in 2007 in its race cars," says Yu.

He also adds that research results and experience with 10 percent ethanol-blended gasoline abroad have also shown that actual fuel efficiency is essentially identical to that of regular gasoline.

Cheaper price

Yu points out that despite the present importation, Seaoil's unleaded ethanol-blend gasoline is still 65 centavos less than the price of its closest rival while the company's premium unleaded variant (97+ octane rating) is also cheaper by 71 centavos.

"This country can already save close to P100 million a year with these projected savings or a collective P12 billion annual savings for the industry, if all 3.4 million gasoline-fed vehicles in the country would use the ethanol-blended gasoline," he adds.

Indeed, what makes the product so compelling is that ethanol-blended gasoline (of up to 10 percent) can be used in almost all gasoline engines without modification (like changing the fuel line).

Yu also shares that every major automaker in the world approves the use of 10 percent ethanol fuel under warranty.

World-class kart track to rise in Parañaque

By Charles E. Buban

ALTHOUGH KARTING HAS BEEN around the Philippines for quite some time, it is only in recent years that it has grown popular.

"For a growing number of Filipinos, karting is no longer just a game they can only watch. Because of a number of kart tracks built recently, they discovered they, too, can burn rubber and experience the adrenaline rush of whipping around the racetracks like their race idols," says Jean-Marc Freihuber, one of the founders (along with George Apacible and former karter and touring car driver Lee Bumgarner) of the soon-to rise City Kart Racing in Sucat, Parañaque City.

The one-hectare City Kart Racing will be the first indoor track to be built in country and according to Freihuber who designed the track and its facilities, it will also be the most technically advanced even when compared to other similar tracks in the region.

"The track measures 520 meters long and five meters wide (with another 360-meter outdoor extension). It will also feature 11 technical turns and an exciting 60-meter straight as well as an overpass (reminiscent of the Suzuka F1 Grand Prix Circuit in Japan)," reveals Freihuber.

According to Freihuber, City Kart Racing is the culmination of his 12 years of experience in designing and building tracks, which are all located in France, his native land.

"This is the first time I did a project outside France and I should say, the best of the five I previously built since I incorporated all the best features as well as improvements that I would like my previous projects to have," relates Freihuber.

Hone their skills

Freihuber says that City Kart Racing will give Filipinos a chance to hone their skills, find out if they have what it takes to be a racer, or to just have some fun.

"In Europe, there are hundreds of kart tracks with most of them charging inexpensive fees and easily accessed (since most of them are located within the city or town). This is among the reasons why there are so many talented racers in Europe. As we all know, karting is a stepping stone to the higher ranks of motorsports," reveals Freihuber.

He says that with the opening of City Kart Racing, the group will be able to raise the standards of kart racing in the country.

"We already lined up several events: a series of 14 races lasting 10 months, a six-race event for the rainy season, another six races for the dry season, a series of 10 races leading to a qualification for a big race abroad, a 24-hour endurance race based on the famous 24-hour Le Mans in France, as well as the Students Fiesta race that will be organized in partnership with student organizations, which is intended to be an interschool competition," Freihuber enumerates.

Like a golf clubhouse

He explains that with all these events lined up, he has included several facilities that will make City Kart Racing a truly one-stop venue.

"It's like a golf clubhouse where we have included a coffee shop, a restaurant, a VIP members lounge, private locker room (for storing race suits and equipment), and even a conference facility," says Freihuber.

With the completion of City Kart Racing, Freihuber envisions the country to produce a number of world-class racers.

"Filipinos have what it takes to be a top caliber racer. They have the right body size, a lot of supporters that could sponsor them, and with the completion of City Kart Racing they will now have a venue where they can truly perfect their skills," says the Frenchman.

NMPI makes a statement with the Sentra I-Style

THE MAINSTAY SEDAN OF NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) commands respect and its solid character makes it a very good foundation for adding visual improvements. This is where the Sentra I-Style enters the picture.

Introduced only last Aug. 5, the Sentra I-Style nonetheless represents a big step in making NMPI's second best seller more appealing to compact car buyers, especially those who want to make a statement in style. What's more, the additions to the Sentra I-Style come at no cost, representing excellent value-for-money.

"The Sentra I-Style was developed for those who want more visual appeal for a car that already commands so much respect. And with no additional cost for its new features, the Sentra I-Style truly represents an excellent choice for car buyers," explained Dennis Chang, AVP for arketing and Sales at NMPI.

NMPI offers three Sentra I-Style variants—GS-AT, GSX-AT and GSX-MT. Standard for the GS-AT and the GSX-AT are the following new features: rear sensors, two-tone leather seats, and modified headlamp, taillight and grille design. The GS-AT also comes with a heads-up display (HUD) digital speed readout. The GSX-MT is the practical I-Style choice, retaining the fabric seats.

The new taillights have a transparent color, which imparts a hint of sportiness and style for the Sentra. This masked taillight shroud is in metallic gray instead of chrome, not unlike that found in Nissan's premium Infiniti brand.

On the other hand, the Heads-up Display is a standard feature in many Infiniti vehicles, including NMPI's own Cefiro 300EX and Superior. It is very helpful in cruising along the highways, because it gives the exact readout of a vehicle's speed, and helps keep the eye of the driver on the road.

With the additional features, the Sentra I-Style will surely find a market

NMPI/B2-3

LAUNCH PAD

Compiled by Tessa Salazar

Mazda6 at 2.3L

APTLY CALLED THE DRIVER'S CAR AND sports sedan by its maker, Mazda Philippines' latest product offering—Mazda6 now at 2.3 liters—boasts of an in-line 4-cylinder, DOHC, 16-valve engine with sequential valve timing and variable intake system. The VIS helps the engine react to different driving situations and improves fuel efficiency in the process.

Max power is rated at 166 ps at 6,500 rpm. Power is controlled through a 5-speed Activematic transmission system that combines the control of a manual and the ease of an automatic.

Notable also during a recent motoring media test-drive in Tagaytay City was its handling performance along the twisty routes on a rainy day.

Mazda6 is equipped with power-assisted rack and pinion steering system. Its 283-mm ventilated discs control the front wheels with precision, while 280-mm solid discs ably handle the rear wheels. It is also equipped with 17-inch wheels with 45 series tires. It has a high-mount double wishbone suspension at the front and an E-type multilink suspension at the rear.

Audi A4 in RP

View the new Audi A4 2.0 multitronic sedan and A4 2.0 multitronic Avant (station wagon) at PGA Cars Inc., the German luxury carmaker's authorized Philippine dealer.

The Audi A4 vehicles are equipped with key features such as its 2 0-liter engine coupled to a 7-speed multitronic transmission and the Electronic Stability Program (ESP).

The new Audi showroom is located at 201 Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Check out www.audi.ph or call 727-0381.

Bridgestone tires

Check out Bridgestone's new street tires Turanza ER-60 and high-performance Sports Tourer MY-01 at the Bridgestone Tire Center at The Fort Global City or at any Bridgestone dealer and selected tire dealers.

Bridgestone's distributor Philippine Allied Enterprises Corp said the Turanza ER 60 has unique "AQ Donuts" with GUTT II, O-Bead II, L.L. Carbon and AQ compounds, Flat Force Block tire technology and Dual-Layer treads, resulting in a quieter and more secure ride.

The sporty Bridgestone Sport Tourer MY-01, on the other hand, is aimed at younger car enthusiasts who prefer "Inch Up" tire modifications.

Wet braking tests conducted at the Bridgestone Proving Ground in Thailand has shown that the braking distance (from 80 to 0 kph) of a Honda Accord equipped with the Turanza ER-60 205/65-R15 94V tires is shorter by 1.5 meters compared with the same car model fitted with tires of competing tire brands.

The Bridgestone Sport Tourer MY-01 features not only a smooth, thick center rib to improve traction on dry surfaces but also a unidirectional tread pattern for improved handling on wet roads. It also has an F1 Nose at the edge of the thread blocks to improve water channeling on wet surfaces and a Silent AC block to reduce road noise.

Bosch's workshop

Some car problems just can't be solved by your trusty neighborhood mechanic these days.

"Vehicle servicing has become more complicated and technical due to the nature of the components and systems now fitted into most new cars," said Antonio Leonardo, general manager of Robert Bosch Inc.'s automotive aftermarket division.

For vehicle diagnostics and repair services required by increasingly complex vehicle systems, it's time to check out Bosch's new comprehensive service strategy.

Some 65 workshops in the Philippines are now members of the elite Bosch Car Service family.

Check out www.bosch.com.ph for more information on the service centers, or call Kaycee Crisostomo at 817-7274.

Thule/EGR showroom

Grab fashionable and functional Thule/EGR automotive visors, Maxliner pickup accessories, Thule load and box carriers and durable bike racks (and probably some bikes, even) at Thule/EGR Philippines' new showroom at the ground floor of the Natividad Building, 2308 Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) Extension, Makati City.

Thule is also an accredited OEM supplier and designer of load carrier systems for premium automotive brands such as Volvo, SAAB, Mercedes Benz, Ford, General Motors, Nissan, Toyota, Lexus, Volkswagen AG, Land Rover, Jaguar and BMW.

2006 Honda City

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. introduces the 2006 Honda City with totally revamped exterior styling and enhanced performance features. The new Honda City sports new headlights, bumpers and front grille designs that have turned its fascia into a "lighter mode."

According to Honda Philippines, Honda's research and development team, led by chief engineer Takashi Saito, transformed the new City into a "sporty smart sedan" with the front nose extended and front end of the engine hood raised.

It sports 15" alloy wheels, dual horns and a print-type radio antenna. The 1.5 City VTEC carries new suspension, increased high speed range and strengthened support arm brackets.

The 1.3-liter City variant sports the i-DSI (intelligent dual sequential ignition) featuring dual spark plugs and 2 valves per cylinder with individually controlled ignition timing. The 1.5-liter has vartiable valve timing and lift electronic control system with a max power of 110 ps at 5,800 rpm and a max torque output of 14.6 kg at 4,800 rpm.

Crazy barriers, amazing Petron and hailing Honda

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

Because I believe in 'truth in advertising,' I am now seriously considering switching to Petron

THOSE CONCRETE BARRIERS OF THE U-turn slots in the metropolis have been causing a lot of traffic accidents lately. Some have led to senseless deaths of motorists.

The barriers are no different from the slender islands found on Edsa, such as the ones at the Guadalupe Bridge that also trigger crashes there every now and then.

I wonder why our geniuses at the MMDA, or at the DPWH for that matter, could not remedy the problem. Or are they too lazy to find solutions, or simply have become callous to the welfare of the people that they are supposed to serve without delay.

Another island that has caused a lot of car crashes is that one in Tarlac City. That's the one you see coming from the big bridge not far from McDo going to Sta. Ignacia. It's that one forking the road when you hit the main Romulo Highway not far from the USST institute of learning.

The solution is but simple: An ample warning sign that is luminously seen, and therefore brightly lighted, in the night. Or, better yet, why not remove all of those islands? They don't untangle traffic jams anyway; in fact they even cause monstrous jams most of the time, mainly due to accidents.

You talk of government in action, you talk of GMA being people-friendly, gosh, I say you could be in another planet.

* * *

I'm sure you've seen that TV ad about the new Petron Xtra Unleaded, with Pocholo Ramirez, a noted car driver and a motoring industry giant, as the product's main endorser.

Well, I've heard friends talk about the fuel's wonders, particularly its being thoroughly economical.

The new Petron fuel is now being bruited about as the only gasoline that has been tested to run 1,114 kilometers on a full tank from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte to Casiguran, Sorsogon. The conduct of the grueling trip and actual results of the drive-test were certified by the Automobile Association Philippines and the Car Awards Group Inc.

"Petron Xtra Unleaded is a superior product of our Petron Refinery's new Isomerization unit, the first and only one in the country," said Ramon V. Del Rosario, manager of Petron's marketing services. "It meets the lower aromatic and benzene content of the Clean Air Act requirements as well as the more stringent Euro IV emission standards."

I have always used unleaded fuel as far as I can remember because I believe in its being environment-friendly.

The Petron Xtra Unleaded has additives to provide excellent engine cleaning to ensure optimum vehicle performance at all times, according to Petron's engineers.

"Tests show that with our new product, a 6-9 percent improvement in average fuel consumption at typical city-driving conditions is being recorded consistently," said Del Rosario.

Because I believe in "truth in advertising," I am now seriously considering switching to Petron.

Any comment, Mr. Ed Mapa?

* * *

HAIL HONDA! The new Honda City has been unveiled Sept. 19 at Rockwell and my attending colleagues are agreed the new Honda babe would again be a knockout. I missed the show but Arnel, Tin, Sheryl and Carla would understand, as always. Last Monday, I had to baby-sit for Malaya's Mayasoh, the family's brand-new star who turns two months old today.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Rain or shine, keep an umbrella in the car.

My weekend with 'Colin McRae 2005'

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

RIGHT TWO, STRAIGHT 30 INTO left two after blue sign—keep in, narrows," barks long-time WRC co-driver Nicky Grist. The Welshman's tone and tempo do not change, hinting at years of experience working his trade. Just like many of us who work 40-plus hour weeks, Mr. Grist is in his office, at his desk. It's just that his workplace travels upward of 200 kph, slides sideways on purpose and takes flight at his command.

"Straight 70, right two caution, over very narrow bridge," continues my persistently calm passenger, his voice cutting out prematurely because of the static over our in-car intercom. The Citroen Xsara WRC car we are in begins the necessarily rapid descent from over a hundred clicks an hour.

I've decided to take this dangerous right hander conservatively, as there is a need to finish this stage in once piece. The Spanish bloke in the Ford Focus just behind us in the overall standings just timed faster in the last split. A podium finish is critical but finishing the rally in the points is decidedly more important.

Just as my concentration from the corner is broken by the thought of the hard-charging Focus eating into our marginal lead, I realize the mistake I've just committed. The ceramic brakes of the Xsara are not as sharp anymore, probably because of the insane abuse they took at the Panzerplatz Stage at Oberhausen earlier in the day.

Running out of road

Nicky and I are running out of road and overshooting the cones and bunting at the end will mean having to reverse back into the course—most likely behind the times of the two Spaniards in the Focus WRC. I decide to scrub more speed by flicking the car into the tight right, rationalizing that maybe I can catch the tail of the car before it violently smashes into the concrete railing of the bridge that is looming larger and larger every split second.

Our Rally Deutschland is already over, long before the spectacular and possibly lethal crash that ensues. Still at speed, the early turn in that I execute is combined with a sudden release of the gas pedal; the Xsara begins rapidly to pivot on its axis as we are still being carried onward by only our surplus forward momentum.

Once what little traction our "abrasive tarmac" tires still had left is broken, we begin to drift in earnest. Completely sideways by the time we reach the mouth of the bridge, I floor the gas pedal, hoping the tires will make meaningful contact with the dirty, uneven tarmac again; also praying that our trick differential will translate some of the 300++ bhp of our Citroen into some sort of salvation.

The four-wheel drift begins to break, as I can see the scenery beginning to come forward a little but the objects on the horizon have not stopped moving from left to right. This is game over, ladies and gentlemen. The moment of impact if announced by the sick crunch of what can only be sheet metal, carbon fiber, and crumbling plexiglass. The substantial balance of the momentum that I had failed to dissipate carries us over the edge, right over the two-foot-high concrete railings, and we land dramatically in the stream below.

Calling it quits

Continuing the rally will probably be possible despite the horrendous crash, but at what cost to efficiency and speed? I decide to call it quits and press the "Esc" key on my keyboard. I select the "Exit" option on the menu and proceed to fumble for a cigarette before I try to wrest the Rally Deutschland trophy from my PC and the outstanding AI that "Colin McRae 2005" comes with.

Maybe it's my age, but sessions with this game on my PC are seriously as, if not more, intense than the text narrative mentioned earlier. Older children definitely tend to take play more seriously than younger ones. There is now a compelling need to boot up my computer and give my virtual WRC car a go, even at the most ungodly hours of the dawn. I can only chalk that up to the mind-blowing realism that are delivered by games these days. It's as if the game designers and the publishers made sure that we never had a chance to begin with.

Playing games, especially when one is on the wrong side of 30 years, may seem a little juvenile for most. I'll wager though that these are people who haven't gotten an opportunity to sit in front of the latest console or hottest PC even just for a few moments. The gaming experience is almost as real as it can get. Sensory overload is a true possibility. In trying to rationalize the amount of time that I've blown on McRae 2005, the notion that this could be a training tool for performance driving has come to mind.

It's sad what a mind made mad with blinking lights and stereo sound can think of. I now must take leave of actual reality again, as I have a bone to pick with a certain Ford Focus and it's Spanish driver. I may not drive in any fashion similar to Colin McRae but El Matador, here I come.

Please buy original software at all times. I purchased my copy of Codemaster's Colin McRae 2005 at Data Blitz in Rockwell, where more racing and driving titles can be found. CMR 2005 is best played with a 2++Ghz CPU, 1GB of RAM and a 256Mb video accelerator. FIA super license not required, Nomex driving boots not included.

NMPI makes . . .

From page B2-2

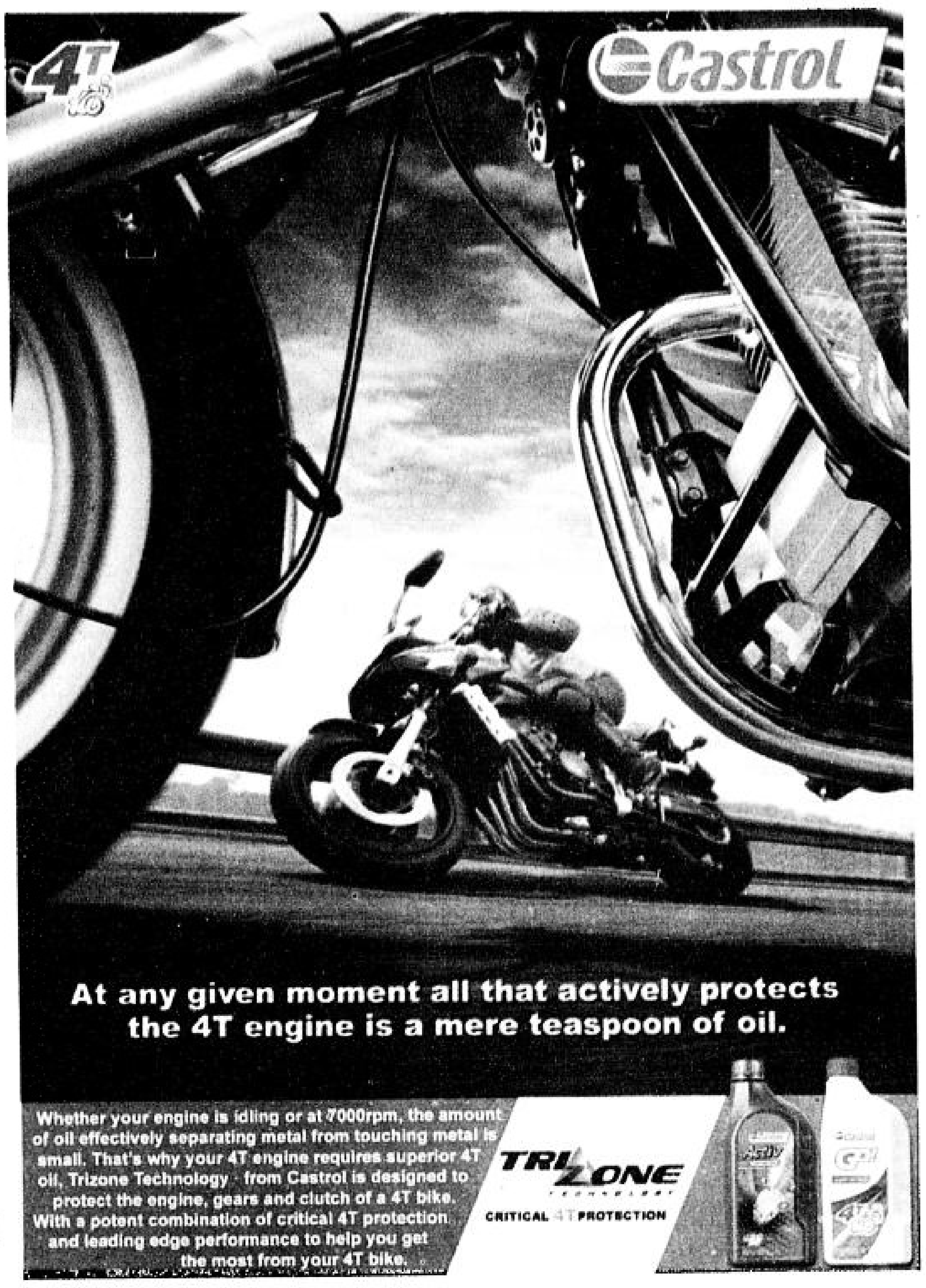
among the young-in-age and young-at-heart.

"The Sentra I-Style is your style. In the near future, we are going to partner with leading personalities in the aftermarket to further strengthen our 'I-Style, My Style' concept," Mr. Chang said.

Powering the Sentra I-Style is the proven 1.6-liter QG16DE engine with Nissan's Variable Timing Control (VTC). It produces 116PS at 6,000 rpm and 14.9 kg-m of torque at 4,400 rpm and is know for its superior running smoothness.

All Sentra I-Styles are also equipped with an Automatic Climate Control System, and 15-inch alloy rims for the GS and 14-inch alloys for the GSX.

The prices of the Sentra I-Style are GS-AT, P798,000; GSX-AT, P758,000; and GSX-MT, P718,000. This means no price change was affected with the additional features that were added across the range.



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Court decisions affect motorists

ON THE ROAD.

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ASIDE FROM THE WEEKLY 50-centavo rise in pump prices, last week was marked by court decisions affecting the automobile industry and motorists. Whether for good or bad depends on which side you are on.

First, there was the Court of Appeals ruling that affirmed the decision of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Olongapo declaring as unconstitutional and illegal Executive Order 156 which bans the importation of used motor vehicles. True, the CA's decision came out Feb. 14 this year and a motion for reconsideration by the Solicitor General was denied by the CA on June 28, 2005. But it was only last week that a memorandum from Malacañang was disclosed ordering pertinent government agencies to comply until such time when the Supreme Court finally decides on the SolGen's petition for review on certiorari.

Exposed

The Malacañang memo was exposed last week by Sen. Dick Gordon, the first chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, the port of entry for second-hand vehicles during his successor Tong Payumo's term. I will not go into the alleged politics behind the memo, but the impact on the Philippine automobile industry is staggering. With cheap, reconditioned junk cars cutting into their sales and threatening to kill the industry, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) immediately protested that the memo contradicts President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's avowed policy to develop the country's auto industry and attract more investments.

But the executive branch of government appears to be ignoring Campi's urgent appeal for a level playing field. Perhaps the Supreme Court can rise to the occasion and restore the business sector's faith in the judicial branch once more by acting swiftly on the SolGen's petition for review.

Another CA decision, this time more directly affecting motorists, upheld a Quezon City RTC ruling that prohibits the Land Transportation Office (LTO) from confiscating the license plates of illegally parked vehicles. In 1990, motorist Roel Eric Garcia (may his tribe increase) went to court after an LTO traffic enforcer confiscated his car's license plate as his car was parked in a vacant lot near the Manila airport.

Illegal

In its decision, the QC RTC deemed as illegal two LTO memorandum circulars issued in the 1970s allowing the confiscation of license plates as a penalty. The CA concurred, saying that the circulars violated Republic Act 3136, better known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code. For while illegal parking and the obstruction of traffic break traffic laws specified in RA 4136, the Code does not provide for the confiscation of the offending vehicle's license plates, the CA said.

A decision handed down the other Monday by the Supreme Court (SC) is also good news for motorists. In 1988, Assistant City Prosecutor Lauro Biglang-awa (may his tribe increase) sued the town of San Juan after he fractured his right arm when his car fell into an excavation of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Santolan Road, which is a national road. The police report noted that there were no barricades to mark the diggings.

Liable

The lower court found the San Juan local government unit (LGU) and the MWSS liable for Biglang-awa's injury. Contending that under the Local Government Code it has no control over national roads, the San Juan LGU elevated the case to the CA. But the CA not only affirmed the lower court's decision, it also found the construction firm hired by the MWSS equally responsible for the accident. The LGU then brought the case to the Supreme Court, which upheld last week the lower court, ruling that the municipality is liable for injuries caused by its failure to regulate the drilling and excavation of the ground for the laying of gas, water, sewer and other pipes, regardless of whether the drilling is made on a national or municipal road, for as long as the same is within its territorial jurisdiction.

In view of this, the SC ordered the San Juan LGU, the MWSS and the construction firm to pay Biglang-awa P105,000 in damages.

Despite the small amount in damages awarded to the complainant, this SC decision should make roads safer as LGUs will be compelled, from now on, to see to it that diggings are covered by permits and properly marked and secured.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Nothing is impossible for those who don't have to do it.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

A JOINT resolution to work toward the implementation of road safety programs was signed recently by Prof. Hilario Sean Palmanio, representing the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies (NCTS), Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. president Nobuharu Tabata and Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) president Augusto C. Lagman after the first of a series of six Road Safety Conferences 2005-2006 sponsored by Toyota. The first conference focused on "Vulnerable Road Users" and was held at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati.

Stoplight TV marks third season

STOPLIGHT TV IS A 30-minute educational entertainment motoring program produced by Kinetic Productions Inc. and primarily targeted at the average Filipino who is part of the ever-growing youth-oriented industry looking for a reason to spend some of their hard-earned money for enjoyment.

It airs on ABS-CBN's UHF Channel-Studio 23 Saturdays, 1 p.m. Philippine time (GMT +8) on Studio 23 and Sundays, 6 p.m. PST (GMT -8) on Internet TV Channel—www.Stoplight.TV and is watched by an estimated 9 million Filipino households.

Stoplight TV is hosted by the statuesque Love-Love Tioseco, the only female Ducati superbike racer in the Philippines; lovely teen racing ace Michele Bumgarner; alluring Pinoy Big Brother housemate and model Say Alonzo and dashing gearhead-cum-speedster DJ Matt Montoya Yngson.

Its innovative execution and programming features race news from here and abroad in Pole Position; vehicles from scooters to exotic cars on Rides; interviews with racing personalities in Behind the Wheel; parties, launches and other motor sport lifestyle events in Off the Track; as well as safety and driving tips on Safety First.

Directing the show is 30-year veteran Emmanuel "Boy" Gatus, while steering the production are executive producers Matthew "DJ Matt Montoya" Yngson and Edgar "Eggay" Quesada, and marketing director Brian Galagnara.

RP arena to intensify . . .

From page B2-1

sults in a consistent, optimal mix of fuel and air. A sensor detects the slightest depression on the accelerator, which, in turn, activates a motor that opens the throttle accordingly.

And if you want to be more in control of the ride, the sports mode allows you to do just that even in an automatic transmission.

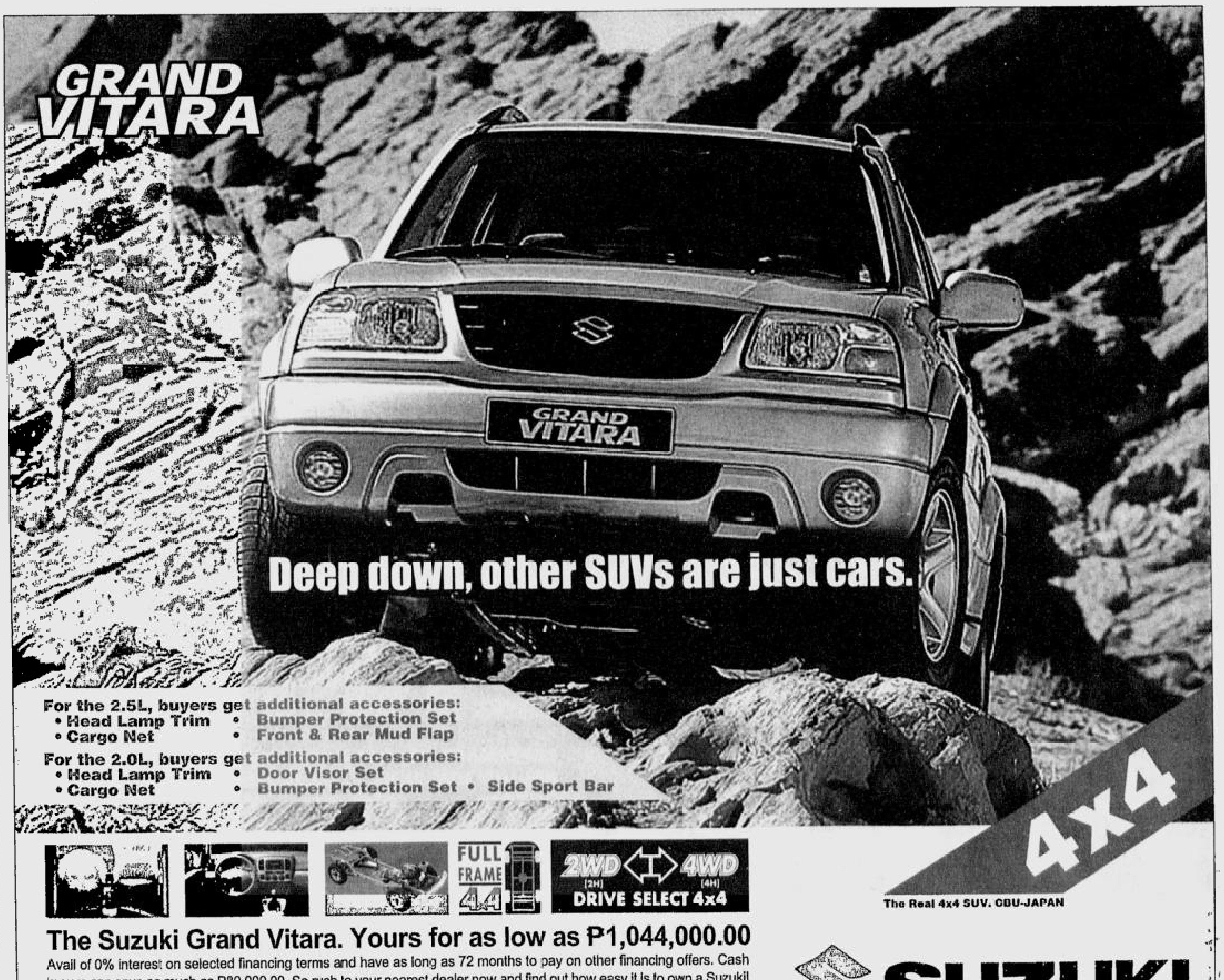
The people at Kia, however, don't take all the credit. They reveal, for instance, that the 5-speed automatic transmission system was made by Jatco (Japan Transmission Corp.) while the common rail fuel system was put together by Bosch of Germany.

The dashboard and windshield provided excellent viewing angles. And it seems Kia has solved its perennial problem—its weak air conditioners (how many have complained of an almost nonexistent air-con when they were on a Pride taxi?). This time, the air-con vents could be adjusted easily, and performed admirably on a sunny day with an untinted Sorento.

The P1.350-million Sorento EX (LX Limited is P1.250 million) is heftier than a Honda CRV and a Toyota RAV4, but leaner than a Mitsubishi Pajero, with a cabin size that is roughly the same with a BMW X5 (from pillar to pillar). The bonnet area of the X5 is longer, though. There are also variants with a sunroof. However, for the Philippine market, distributor CAC has made initially available the Sorento without the sunroof.

IT HAS power-assisted ventillated 4-wheel disc

Verdict: For the reason that it's P200,000 cheaper than the next SUV out there, the Sorento deserves a serious test drive by an SUV hunter. And once you're in it, you may tend to forget Kia's sins of the past and just go ahead and buy it. Think about it: That P200,000 you've saved will be for your diesel fuel expenses; there's no waiting time for your order; a generous warranty of three years or 110,000 km awaits; and best of all, the Sorento is a blend of Korean, Japanese and German workmanship. Heck, your dealer might just even throw in the complete DVD set of "Full House." Perfect!



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SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Dunkin' Donuts
Slabsters

Are you changing the world?

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism on Volunteer In Person (VIP) Day, Oct. 21, at Rockwell Loft, Makati City.

Faces of Volunteerism recognizes Metro Manila's everyday heroes who in their everyday lives touch those who need them most.

They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays reading books to sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program also aims to encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others. On VIP Day, the Top 5 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

In a crowd of anonymous heroes, these are the faces that shine the brightest.

If you know anyone who de-

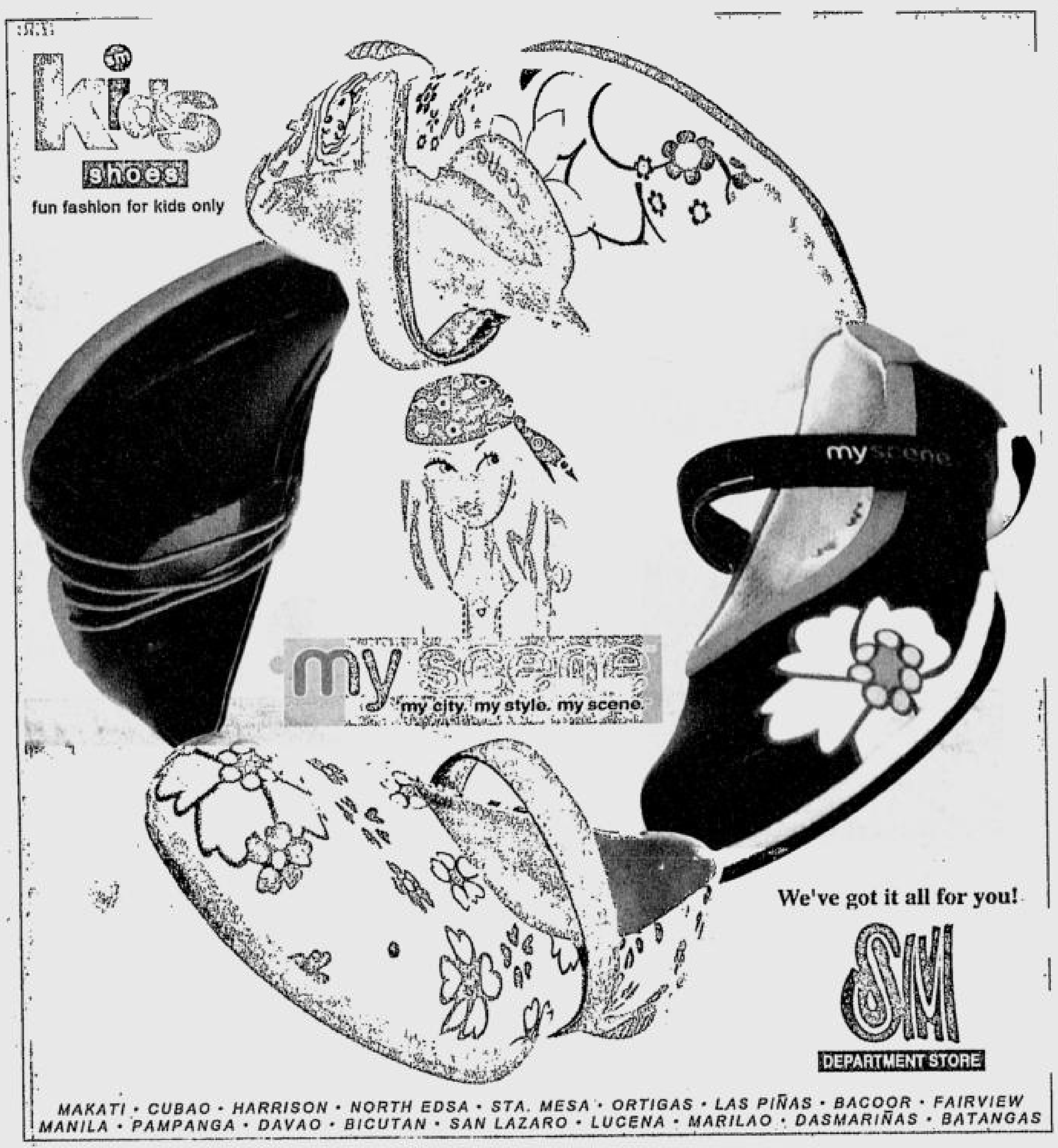
ARE YOU/ C2

Volunteering for a better Metro Manila

NOT EVERYTHING IS DIM. Despite our political and economic troubles, there are still pockets of hope. Plenty of them, in fact.

There are people, among us who take time out to make things a little better. Some may be active in Hands On Manila service projects, in their own church outreach projects, school or company community activities, or motivated on their own as individuals to move to action and be part of solving our nation's struggles.

VOLUNTEERING/ C2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Men Trust SkinLab:

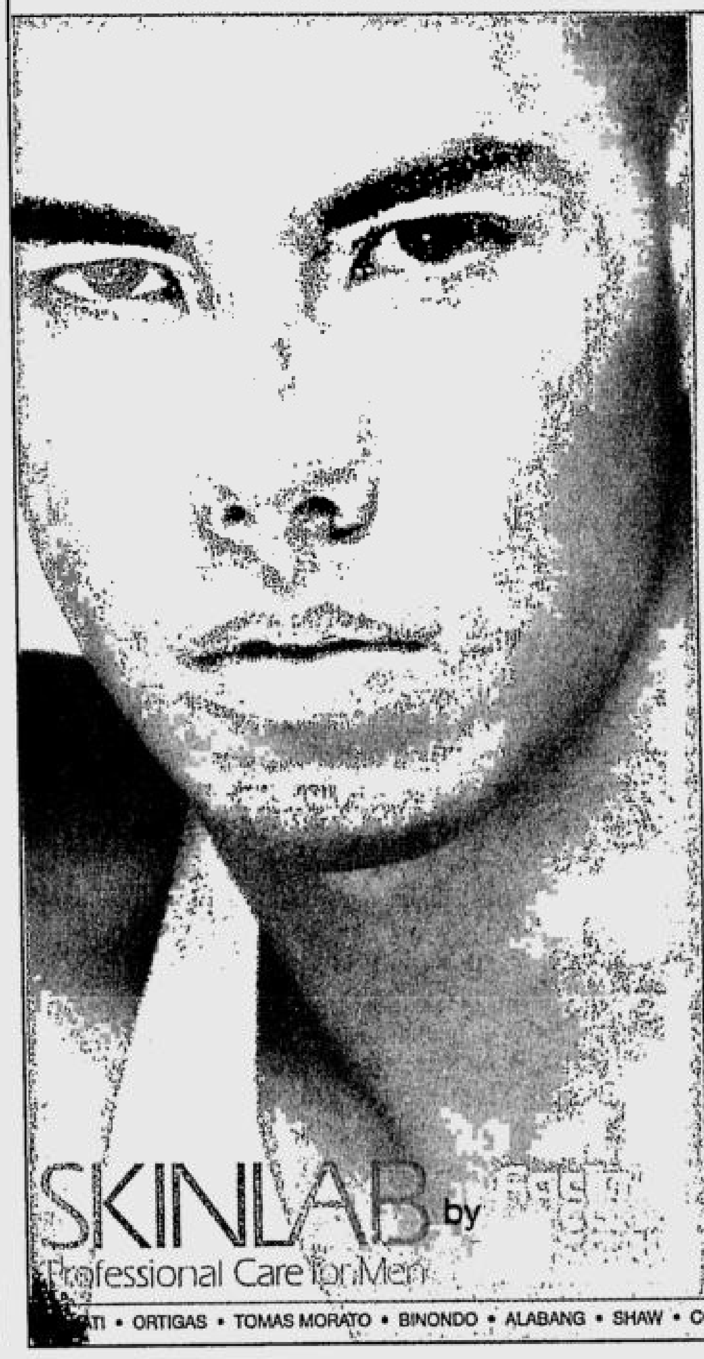
"No More Skin Breakouts For Me!"

Doug Kramer
Student/Model/Varsity basketball player

"I've never used skincare products. I just wash my face every night and that's it. Then I started having skin breakouts and I also noticed uneven color with dark circles under my eyes. I just wanted to look good knowing that my skin is healthy. When I tried SkinLab's relaxing treatments like the Shi-Zen D-Tox, I could see the results in just two weeks. No more pimple breakouts and the dark areas under my eyes began to fade. I thought it would be hard to get rid of pimples and other skin problems. But with SkinLab, it's no hassle to get healthier, better-looking skin."

Shi-Zen D-Tox is a detoxification facial with Shiatsu massage to correct skin fatigue and restore vitality. Available at SkinLab. Call today for a FREE consultation.

CALL
813-7959



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Get Fit with HP!

Get a limited edition gym bag, a massage from Body Care, or a 2 week trial pass at Fitness First when you buy any of these HP printers.

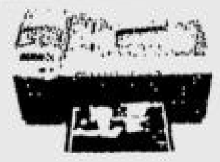
EXTENDED

PS 7450 P 5,990

- VERSATILE Everyday Printer - document / photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 18ppm black or. 14ppm color
- HP Photoret 4 Color Layering Technology (6 ink color printing)
- 4800-optimized dpi
- Multi-slot memory card reader (CF1,CF2, Smart Media, Memory Stick, Secure Digital/MMC and xD-Picture Card)

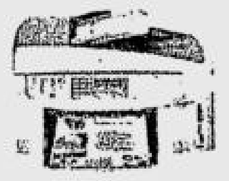
OJ 4255 P 8,990

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-Ink color printing)
- Scan up to 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution / 36-bit



OJ 5510 P 11,690

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Up to 4800-optimized dpi color printing and laser quality text
- Print and copy at up to 17 ppm (black) or 12ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 color layering technology



OJ 7210 P 19,890

- Printer, scanner, copier, fax
- Print and copy at up to 30 ppm (black) or 20ppm (color)
- HP Photoret 3 / HP Photoret 4 (with optional 6-ink colour printing)
- Memory card capability
- Built-in networking (802.3 ethernet network capability)

PSC 2355 P 13,290

- Printer, scanner, copier
- Print and copy at up to 23 ppm (black) or 18ppm (color)
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- 1.8" LCD screen colour graphics display
- Multi-slot memory card reader

PS 8450 P 19,190

- Studio quality 8-ink color printing
- 4800 optimized dpi
- Borderless panorama photo printing
- Fast printing speed at 20ppm black
- Multi-slot memory card reader
- Optional BLUETOOTH connectivity (via bluetooth adapter)

Promo Details

1 The "Get Fit with HP" promotion will run from August 16 to September 30, 2005. Redemption will be until November 30, 2005
2 To avail of the promotion, consumers need to purchase any of the following printers (DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450) from any participating HP reseller
3 Consumers get a free gym bag with a purchase of either the DJ5740, DJ6540, OJ7210 or PS8450. The Gym bag will be bundled with the printer box and can be availed of at the time of purchase
4 Consumers get either a free massage session or a 2 week trial membership from Fitness First with the purchase of either the OJ4255, OJ5510, PSC2355, OJ7210, PS325, PS7450, PS8450. Consumers are only entitled to choose either the free massage session worth or the free 2 week trial membership.
5 Consumers need to present a duly filled up sticker/info sheet, cutout from the printer box along with the sales invoice and a valid ID to any Fitness First Club (Ayala, Fort, Ortigas, Libis, Robinson's Metro East, Robinsons Place Manila, Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, and Ayala Center Cebu) to avail of the free 2 week trial membership or free massage
a. Fitness First will issue a two-week trial membership coupon to the consumer upon presentation of required documents
b. The two-week trial membership will expire 14 days after first usage
c. The free massage can be availed only upon prior appointment with any Fitness First branch
6. This promotion can not to be used in conjunction with other running HP promotions

HP Contact Center (632) 867-3557, Fitness First (632) 848-0000

hp invent
Fitness First

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LAMCO Digital WSI

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

Life tastes sweet with EQUAL®
The Low Calorie Sweetener

Volunteering for a better Metro Manila

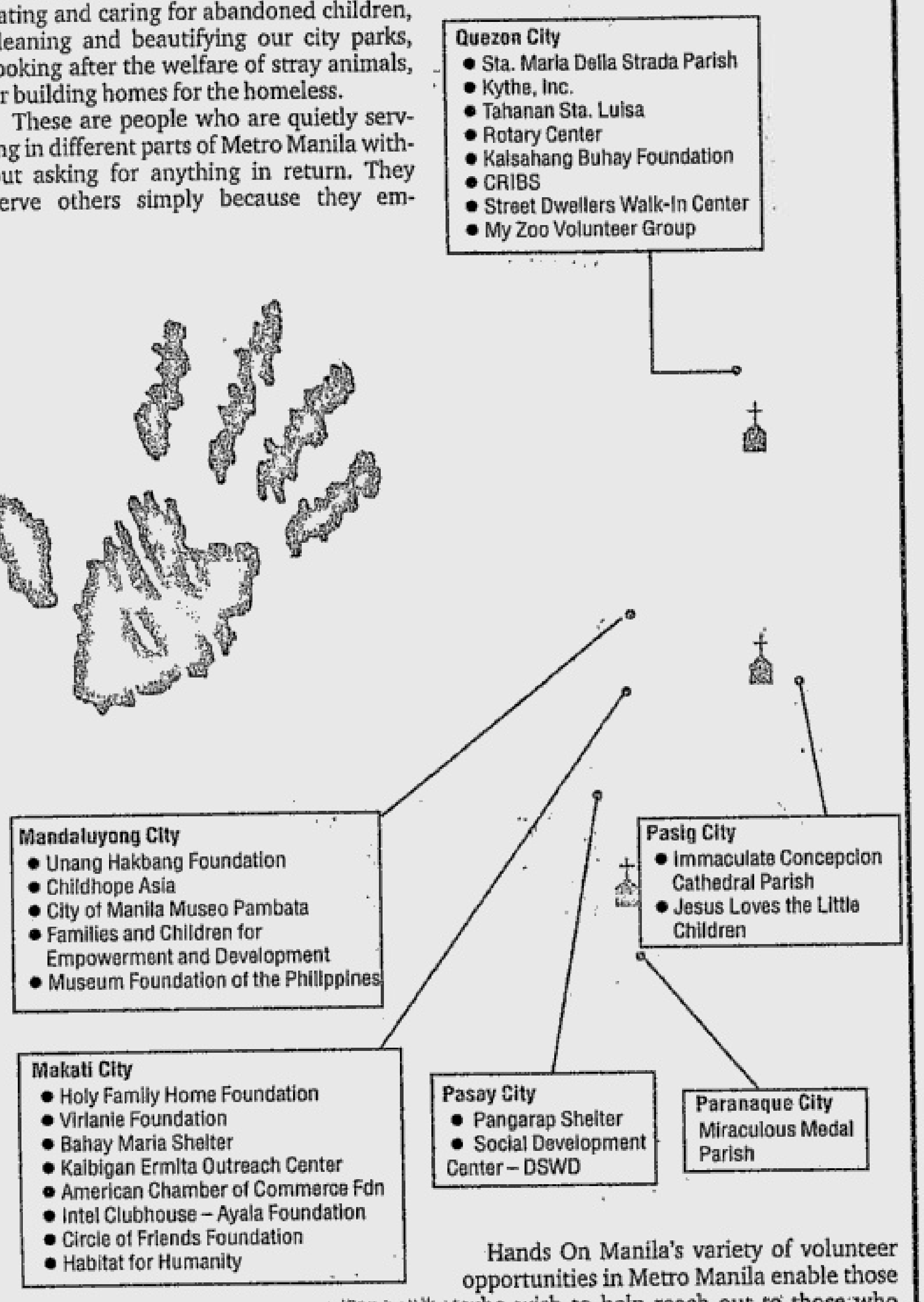
From page C1

There are also those who actively participate in Hands On Manila's service projects.

Each day, there are people in shelters who take time out to help in feeding, educating and caring for abandoned children, cleaning and beautifying our city parks, looking after the welfare of stray animals, or building homes for the homeless.

These are people who are quietly serving in different parts of Metro Manila without asking for anything in return. They serve others simply because they empathized and believe they can make a difference.

Making a difference in Metro Manila may seem a tall order but with each person activated, it may not be as difficult. These are some places you can help:



Quezon City
- Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish
- Kythe, Inc.
- Tahanan Sta. Luisa
- Rotary Center
- Kalsahang Buhay Foundation
- CRIBS
- Street Dwellers Walk-In Center
- My Zoo Volunteer Group

Mandaluyong City
- Unang Hakbang Foundation
- Childhope Asia
- City of Manila Museo Pambata
- Families and Children for Empowerment and Development
- Museum Foundation of the Philippines

Pasig City
- Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral Parish
- Jesus Loves the Little Children

Makati City
- Holy Family Home Foundation
- Virlanie Foundation
- Bahay Maria Shelter
- Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Center
- American Chamber of Commerce Fdn
- Intel Clubhouse – Ayala Foundation
- Circle of Friends Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity

Pasay City
- Pangarap Shelter
- Social Development Center – DSWD

Paranaque City
Miraculous Medal Parish

Hands On Manila's variety of volunteer opportunities in Metro Manila enable those who wish to help reach out to those who need them.

If you are interested to help, call HOM at 8435231 or 8437044, or check out www.handsonmla.org.

Are you changing . . .

From page C1

serves to be recognized, send your entries with the following details by Sept. 30.

1. Name
2. Age
3. School/company/organization
4. Occupation (if applicable)
5. Volunteer experience in the last year. Talk about your:
   a. Organizations/projects involved including contact person/numbers/addresses
   b. Duration/frequency
   c. Activity/task involved
   d. How your service was significant to the project
   e. Why you chose this program/project
   f. How the experience affected you
6. Documentation
   a. 2x2 photo
   b. Certification from community/organization
7. Two references (name, contact information)
8. Briefly describe your proposal project. Please give:
   a. Details of the organization including contact information
   b. Title of the project
   c. Objectives
   d. Project duration
   e. Activities including role of volunteers
   f. Budget

Entries may be sent to HSBC Faces of Volunteerism c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; or Hands on Manila Foundation Inc., Unit LP10 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo cor. dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, or e-mail homla@info.com.ph

ATENEAN models wearing Levi's newest collection

Shindig goes Nippon

A campus party tries to capture the ambience of Tokyorama

By Jan la O'
Contributor

SHINDIG is probably the most celebrated extravaganza of the Ateneo Junior Marketing Association (AJMA), setting its name apart through exceptional themes that offer college partyphiles a break from the ordinary. An annual event for students to enjoy, celebrate and leave their everyday worries behind, it has consistently provided its audience with great music, good food, awesome drinks and trendy fashion, one big social event which is a certified Ateneo tradition where diverse crowds come together.

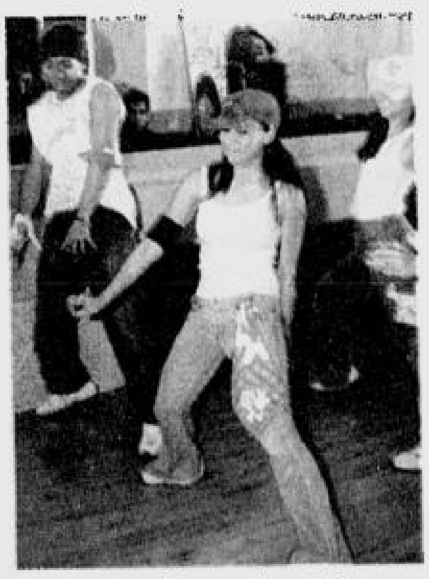
This year, Shindig turns Japanese with Tokyorama! Inspired by Tokyo street fashion where everything is acceptable—from tousled pink hair to maid outfits, heavy metal and leather ware, and worn-out cowboy boots—the Japanese youth of today has found fashion and lifestyle as the channels by which they can truly express themselves.

Shindig 2005 incorporates this rich modern Japanese culture of self-expression and innovativeness with a unique twist of Metro Manila's hip-hop scene in a night of festivities and fun.

Imagine about 300 young, fresh, beautiful, lively and even some obnoxious youths in a reinvented Harajuku station where the funkiest hairstyles, makeup and clothes come together as you dance to the hippest RnB ensemble.

Overflowing San Mig Light, Erg, Jello Shots and the very Japanese poisons Kamikaze (Killer Planes) and Tequila Sunrise (Land of the Rising Sun). An event like no other where a hint of Japanese culture and a pinch of Metro Manila fun merge as one!

MODELS Joseph and Amanda in Levi's threads



CADS Street Dance show their moves

ATENEAN model and GMA 7 actress Julie Lee hits the runway.

The event started off with an opening number by the Company of Ateneo Dancers who did a hip-hop/RnB dance performance that rocked the house. Shortly after beautiful hosts Nicole Hernandez, Juddha Paolo, Hazel Tanedo and Migs Escueta officially opened the party.

The night was filled with several programs: fashion show segments featuring male and female models from the Ateneo in their "Jap Street Wear" by Levi's and VNC, "Jap Pop Wear" by NafNaf, Mimi, F&H and VNC; and "Jap High Fashion Wear" by designers Czarina Villa, Kriska See, Katrina Sy and Ziggy Go; performances by hip-hop band Twisted Pair and Art 'n Soul; games by Azta Urban Salon, BMW, Kodak, Addict Mobile Prepaid; special awards by HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives to two Allure girls and two OHM guys of the night, and Versace for woman and model of the night; and speeches by AJMA's president Jonathan Pua and Shindig Tokyorama project heads Nicka Hosaka and Marco Domingo.

The event ended as the hosts closed the program and turned it over to DJ Paolo Toledo and he continued to rock the house.

"Nyuujouryou muryou, nomimono tada, soshite bikei tasuu... Kore ijou daigakusei wa nani wo nozomu?! Kanpai!" Translated: No entrance fee, free drinks and beautiful people... What more can a college kid ask for? Cheers!

Win shoes for your girl!

2BU! AND MERRELL invites you to win shoes for your girl by sharing your experiences in the great outdoors.

Send us a photo of your great adventure (adventure racing, rock climbing, rapelling/abseiling, kayaking, orienteering, bungee jumping, sky diving, trail running, backpacking, mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing or any extreme sports activity—it's up to you) and an essay telling us about it.

Senders of our eight favorite entries will receive a pair of Merrell's women shoes for their favorite girl. We will choose the best photo essay from the eight and the winner will receive Merrell GCs worth P10,000.

If you're male, 18 years old and above, send us a high-quality photo of your adventure (not digitally manipulated, please) along with a brief description. Don't forget to include your name, age, address, contact info and the shoe size of your favorite girl.

E-mail your entries to contest 2bu@inquirer.com.ph

In memory of Maningning, young poet and artist

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

SHE DIED AT THE HEIGHT OF HER literary and artistic powers: Maningning Miclat, 28, poet in three languages and award-winning painter. You might say that, like a true poet, she died for love. One recalls the poignant line from Gabriél Garcia Marquez: "*...la encontro muerta de amor en la cama con los ojos radiantes y la piel de recién nacida.*" (...she was found dead of love with eyes radiant and her skin like a newborn).

Her young life, so filled with accomplishments, is the stuff of legend.

Born and raised in Beijing, China, during the Cultural Revolution, because her parents Mario and Alma Miclat were based there then, Maningning became fluent in Mandarin (which she later taught at the Ateneo University), English and Filipino. And she published poems, short stories and essays in these three languages.

In 1987, she published her first book of poetry in Chinese, "Wo De Shi" (My Poems). Three years later she became a Fellow of the University of the Philippines National Writers Workshop, where she won an award and a Julie Lluch trophy for a one-man play in Filipino.

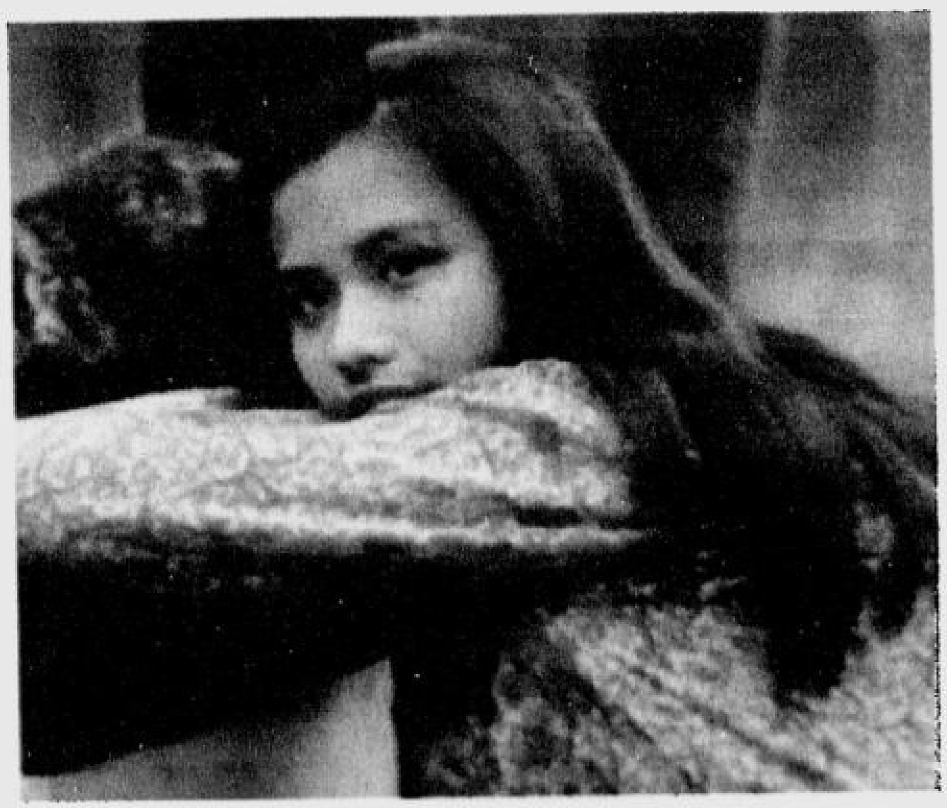
Her poems in English, on the other hand, made her a Fellow of the Silliman Writers' Workshop. And she followed up her first book of poetry with "Voice from the Underworld" (Anvil Publishing).

An anthology which came out in Beijing counted Maningning as one of the 39 Top-Rated Women Poets in Chinese.

The young writer's accomplishments in painting are just as remarkable, if not more so, considering her age then.

In 1987, 15-year-old Maningning held a first solo show of traditional paintings, the first of five such five one-woman exhibits. And while still a student at the UP College of Fine Arts (later graduating with a cum laude standing), she won the 1992 Art Association of the Philippines Grand Award for nonrepresentational paintings with her abstract work, "Trouble in Paradise."

The young poet-painter later took up Masters in Fine Arts at UP, and taught art at the Far Eastern University. There, on Sept. 29, 2000, the angel of death caught up with her.



MANINGNING Miclat's young life is the stuff of legend.

Another major work, "Soliloquy" (8 x 44 feet) was exhibited posthumously at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and at the GSIS Museum in 2002.

Since her death, the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation (maningningfoundation@ gmail.com and www.maningning.com) has been holding annual literary and cultural activities to perpetuate her memory.

This year it will be a "Tatluhan/Triptych" concert at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) on Sept. 25, during which the winners of the 2005 Maningning Miclat Poetry Award in Filipino, English and Chinese Divisions will be announced. The winners (who should not be older than 28) will receive P28,000 each and a Julie Lluch sculpture trophy.

The concert will feature renowned musical artists Raul Sunico, pianist, and Renato Lucas, cellist, and a rising young star on the concert scene, Regina Buenaventura, granddaughter of National Artist Antonino Buenaventura. Proceeds of the concert will go to the future projects of the foundation, as well as the CCP's Sagip Baryo Project.

Clash of civilizations—online

A NEW ONLINE GAME combines the intellectual complexity of an RTS (real time strategy) with the adrenalin rush of an FPS (first person shooter).

RF Online is a visual treat with advanced graphics and extensive role-playing flexibility.

The first sci-fi fantasy MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game) in the Philippines, its story is set in a distant planet where magic exists alongside high technology.

Most MMORPGs follow the typical fantasy setting complete with swords and sorcery, but RF Online uses a unique new game setting—the clash of civilizations.

The story features three races, all hungry for resources, descending upon a planet and engaging in battle for control of the rare minerals found there.

There are the Accretians, who have forsaken the flesh for steel in their pursuit of perfection. They are cyborgs who have transformed themselves into the most physically superior race. Because of this, they have no access to magic, though their firepower is superior.

The Bellato is a fiercely independent race that fell from power under sustained attacks by the combined efforts of the Accretian Empire and the Holy Alliance of Cora. They are a race of inventors able to combine creative tools and weapons with the light form of universal magic called Force.

The Bellato enter the war as the least physically capable and yet given their technological prowess, they have the potential to become the strongest.

The Holy Alliance of Cora draws its power and faith from their god, Decem. Corite belief dictates that they conquer worlds and force other races to submit themselves to their god. Though gifted in the use of arms and weapons, their reliance on tools is secondary to the powers granted by their god, among which is the ability to summon powerful guardian spirits called Animus.

The war begins with the Imperial Army of Accretia, which first entered the war to protect themselves from the Imperialist Bellato Union who tried to conquer the entire galaxy. Later, they allied themselves with the Cora against the Union, and upon their triumph, split asunder the Empire that the Bellato Union tried to establish.

Upon re-staking their claim as an Empire, the Accretia gathered its troops for war against their former cohorts among the Holy Alliance of Cora and the newly formed Bellato Union—to lay claim to the rich mines of the planet Novus.

In this game, the players weave the story, and it is ultimately they who will keep the story unfolding. Players must choose which race to join and be part of the battle for the mines. They can collaborate with co-race members online or offline for battle strategies. They can build their characters by running for office, joining guilds or killing members of the enemy race. A race that gets to take over the mines can change the economy of races and affect the entire story line of the game.

To play the game, players are required to have advanced computer hardware and Internet connection. Computers must be at least Pentium4 or AMD equivalent with a system memory (RAM) of 256MB, with HDD free space of 2.5GB. Broadband connection is required (128K or higher), with Video Memory 128MB or higher, DirectX version 9 or higher and Direct3D Compatible video card.

RF Online is distributed by Level Up Games, the online gaming pioneer that introduced the wildly popular Ragnarok and Rose Online to the country. Already popular in Korea, the Philippines will host the game's first English-version run. Log on to www.levelupgames.ph/rf.

> RF Online combines advanced graphics and extensive role-playing

How Tall Can Your Child Grow?

Maximize your child's growth potential

Parents want to know how tall their child can grow. As a rule, a child's height and growth are determined primarily by his genetic predisposition. Other factors that may either stimulate or hamper your child's potential to grow taller include his diet and regular nutritional intake, his overall health, and hormonal condition. The wise parent keeps in mind that each child is unique. Every individual's growth rate and potential vary. Consult your pediatrician regularly and provide your children with the right diet and nutritional support to make sure that they are growing and developing as well as they should.

The ages 2 to 12 are critical – this is when your child goes through the stages of physical and mental development. Your discerning care is vital during this crucial time of development, not to mention the pressure and intensity of schoolwork and the indulgences in nutritionally-deficient junk foods. These factors can get in the way of strengthening your child's resistance and ensuring his proper nutritional intake. It is for this reason that, for over 10 years now, pediatricians all over the country have prescribed Cherifer Syrup, which is formulated for today's Filipino children aged 2 to 12 years old.

Cherifer Syrup contains Chlorella Growth Factor or CGF. It is a natural, cell-nourishing, high-protein substance that is rich in nucleic and amino acids that have been proven to help stimulate growth as well as repair and heal tissues to an extent not previously found in other foods. While Chlorella in itself provides a wide array of vitamins, minerals and amino acids naturally, its most beneficial value is derived from its extracted ingredient called Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF), which can help enhance your child's natural growth potential. CGF enhances the release of growth hormones during sleep. Only high-grade concentrated CGF is utilized in the formulation of Cherifer Syrup. Many parents who have been giving their children Cherifer Syrup have observed their remarkable growth and development.

A Holistic Formulation for Growth

Cherifer Syrup's well-balanced preparation is also fortified with Taurine and Lysine. These ingredients work together with important vitamins that help in a child's overall health and well-being.

Taurine is vital in ensuring the proper functions of the brain, heart, lungs and blood. It enhances the mental, visual and motor development of active growing children. Together with Vitamin A, Taurine plays an important role in the function of the retina to improve vision, especially in developing proper hand and eye coordination. Taurine and Vitamin A also act as an antioxidants which help protect the cells against diseases. Cherifer Syrup provides sufficient supply of the B-Complex vitamins that help the body absorb and utilize protein and carbohydrates better for energy and growth.

Cherifer Syrup also contains Lysine, which is necessary for a child's growth and bone development. It assists in calcium absorption and in maintaining the body's correct nitrogen balance. Although it enhances appetite, it actually helps maintain lean body mass. Furthermore, growing children need adequate amount of Lysine to produce antibodies and repair tissues.

With today's generation, growing up in an environment that is more stressful and more competitive, it is no wonder parents and doctors look for the right nutritional supplement that will give the kids the advantage to develop to their fullest potential. Tynor, the developer and formulator of Cherifer Syrup, shares in that commitment. Wholly Filipino-owned, Tynor has evolved and focused on local research and development of unique and revolutionary products that will prove beneficial and relevant to the needs and lifestyles of the modern Filipino family. Its very own Cherifer Syrup stands out as one of its most successful products that have helped the company fulfill that vision.

Bottom line, there is no magic formula that can predict how tall your children will grow. But while they are in their physical formative years, Cherifer Syrup hopes to give them the best possible advantages to help them achieve their full growth potential.

What do kids want?
Tangkad Sagad!
They want to grow as tall as they can!
Give them Cherifer Syrup everyday!
Kids know that Height is Might!
TYNOR
Now with Taurine
HEIGHT IS MIGHT
CHERIFER
SYRUP with TAURINE & CGF
(Chlorella Growth Factor)
with Vitamins A, B-Complex & Lysine
FOOD SUPPLEMENT
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
for over 10 YEARS now!
mercury drug

Cherifer Syrup with growth-enhancing Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF) is a well-balanced, multivitamin-enriched supplement that provides the right nutritional formula for active growing kids, from 2-12 years old. Fortified with Taurine and Lysine, too, it helps stimulate propet brain and body development. It's no wonder that pediatricians all over the country have been recommending Cherifer Syrup for growing kids for over 10 years now.

Ask your family doctor about Cherifer Syrup now! With the right diet and Cherifer Syrup everyday, you can help your kids reach their full growth potential. Para Tangkad Sagad!

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Pleasures

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It's time to bond over great finds
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Enjoy discounts on September 16 to 30 at these malls:

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Waltermart Makati
Robinson's Manila
SM San Lazaro
Ayala Center Cebu
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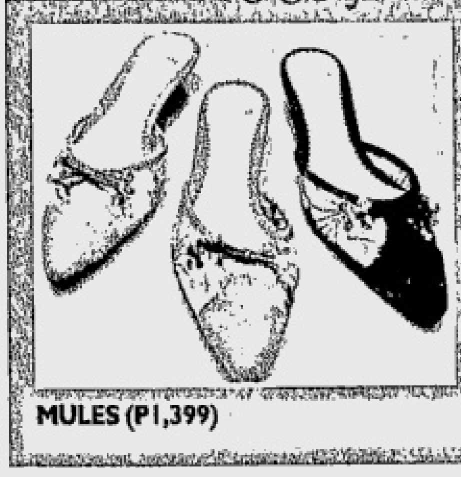
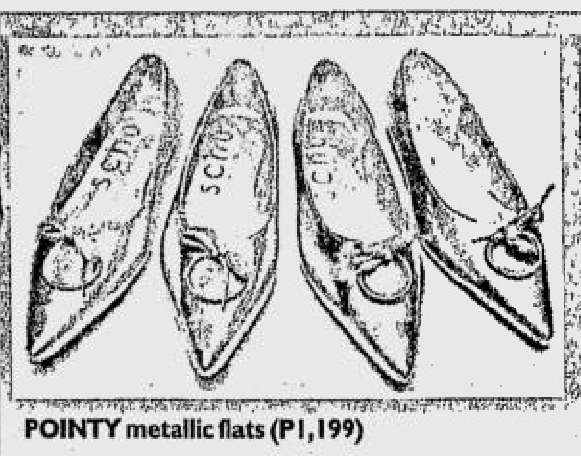

MULES (P1,399)

SLIP-ONS (P799)

BUTTERY-SOFT flats with ribbon (P1,399)


POINTY metallic flats (P1,199)

METALLIC flats (P1,399)

HEELED sandals (P1,399)

From runway to everyday

Flats, thongs, sandals, mules, pumps. Neutrals and metallics. Ribbons, lace, little dolls and cherries. There's a pair of Schu for everyone

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Ryan Lim

THESE SHOES WERE made for strutting.

Schu, an Asian brand of fab feminine footwear, has made fans out of countless women since its birth in December 2004.

Currently available in Manila, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta, Schu has become known for offering affordable alternatives to women who love expressing themselves with their footwear. With its design center in Paris, the people behind Schu have successfully translated the latest trends and the hottest colors from the runways of Europe to everyday living.

Playing with different styles, hues and materials, Schu designers have been able to produce catwalk-worthy pairs for a fraction of the price.

Schu has three lines to fit the different tastes and needs of different women. "We have Work Wear, which is a little more classic. There's also the Chic Line, which is a compromise between the Work Wear and the Signature

FROM RUNWAY/ D3

SNAKESKIN-PRINT ballet flats (P1,399)

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Win P300,000 cash with
SMART RAMBOL

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ROUND PACQUIAO TULOG
SAPAK SUNTOK GALING
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1 correct word = 10 points

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para sa HIGHEST POINTER!
P1,000 LOAD Daily
para sa apat (4) na runners-up!
P300,000 CASH
para sa Raffle Draw!
* Each answer should be at least a 3-letter word.
You will be automatically subscribed to the Rambol service when you text an answer to 2449.
Yesterday's word logo: GULPI
Gulp, Plug, Lip, Lug, Pig, Pug, Pul
You can text your answers from 4am to 11:59pm.

To get the daily word logo,
Text RAMBOL to 2449
P2.50 per text message/P2.50 per word logo
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See flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4909, Series of 2005.

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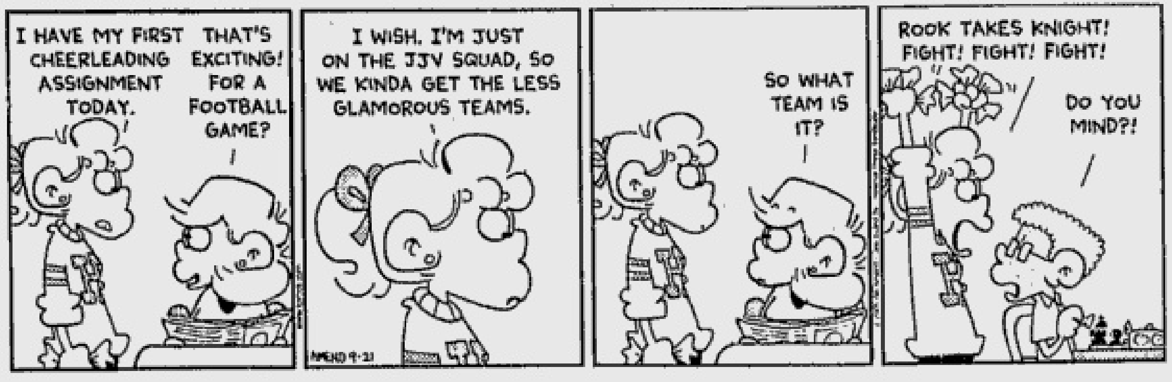
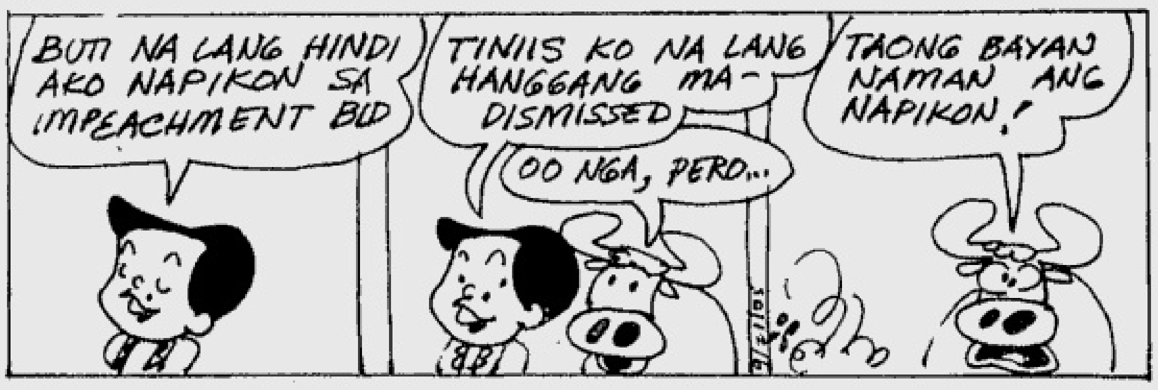
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I HAVE MY FIRST CHEERLEADING ASSIGNMENT TODAY.
THAT'S EXCITING! FOR A FOOTBALL GAME?
I WISH. I'M JUST ON THE JJV SQUAD, SO WE KINDA GET THE LESS GLAMOROUS TEAMS.
AMEND 9-21
SO WHAT TEAM IS IT?
ROOK TAKES KNIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
DO YOU MIND?!

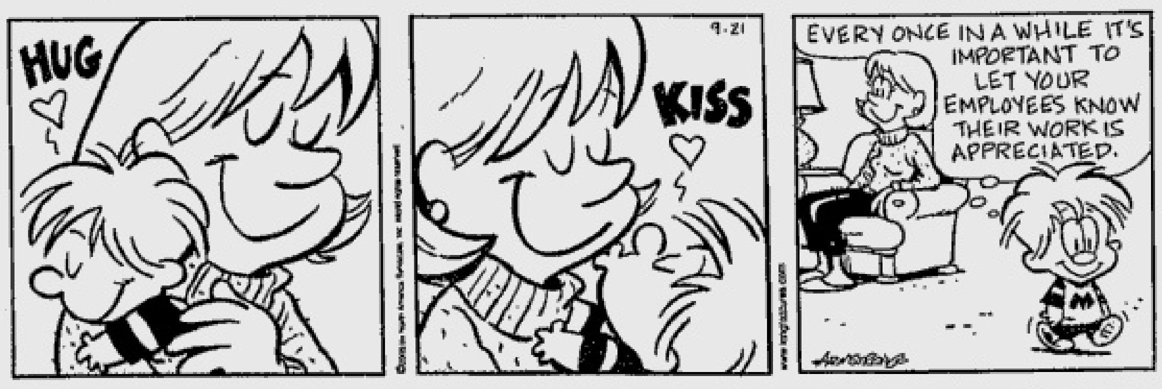
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BUTI NA LANG HINDI AKO NAPIKON SA IMPEACHMENT BID
TINIIS KO NA LANG HANGGANG MA-DISMISSED
OO NGA, PERO...
TAONG BAYAN NAMAN ANG NAPIKON!

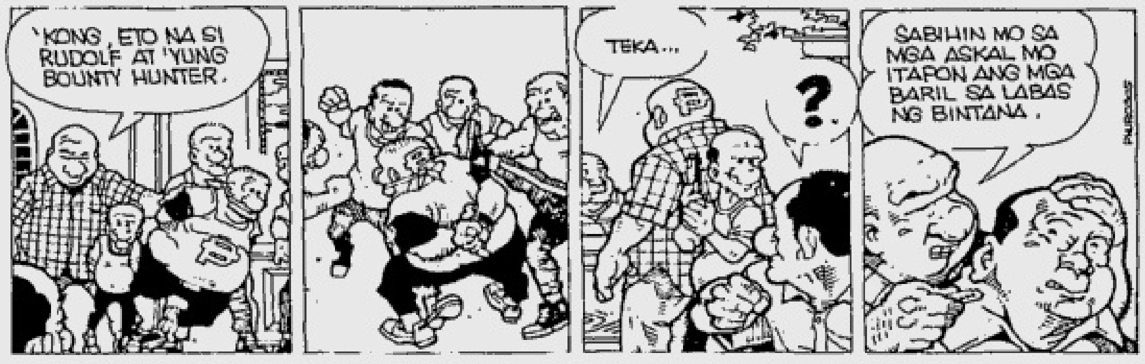
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HUG
9-21
KISS
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE IT'S IMPORTANT TO LET YOUR EMPLOYEES KNOW THEIR WORK IS APPRECIATED.
ARMSTRONG

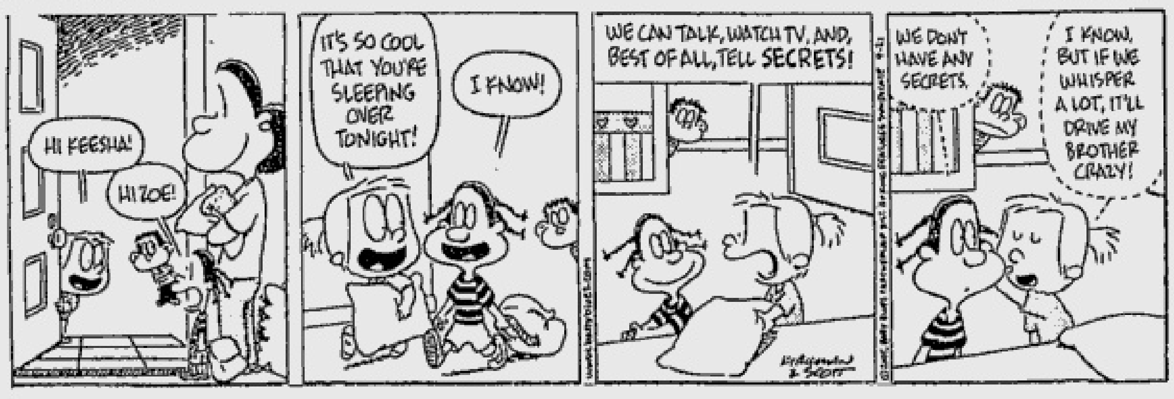
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'KONG, ETO NA SI RUDOLF AT 'YUNG BOUNTY HUNTER.
TEKA...
?
SABIHIN MO SA MGA ASKAL MO ITAPON ANG MGA BARIL SA LABAS NG BINTANA.

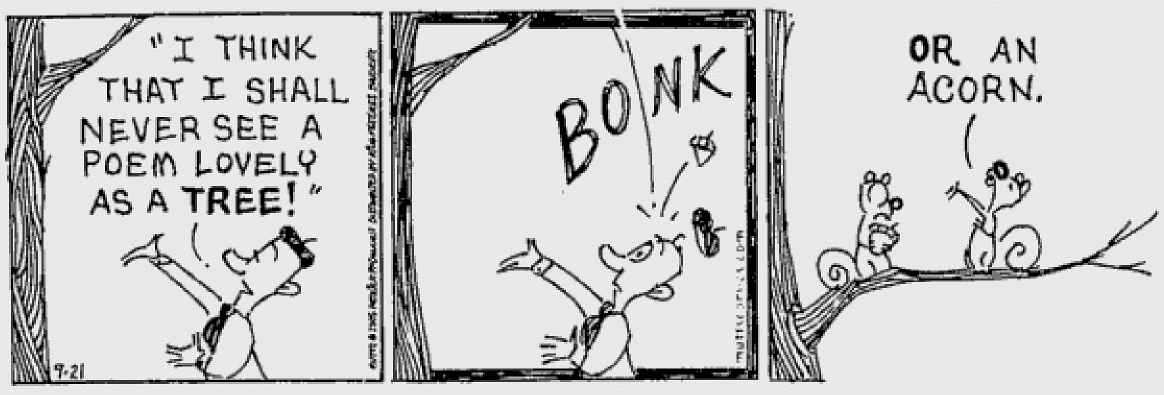
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI KEESHA!
HI ZOE!
IT'S SO COOL THAT YOU'RE SLEEPING OVER TONIGHT!
I KNOW!
WE CAN TALK, WATCH TV, AND, BEST OF ALL, TELL SECRETS!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS.
I KNOW. BUT IF WE WHISPER A LOT, IT'LL DRIVE MY BROTHER CRAZY!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

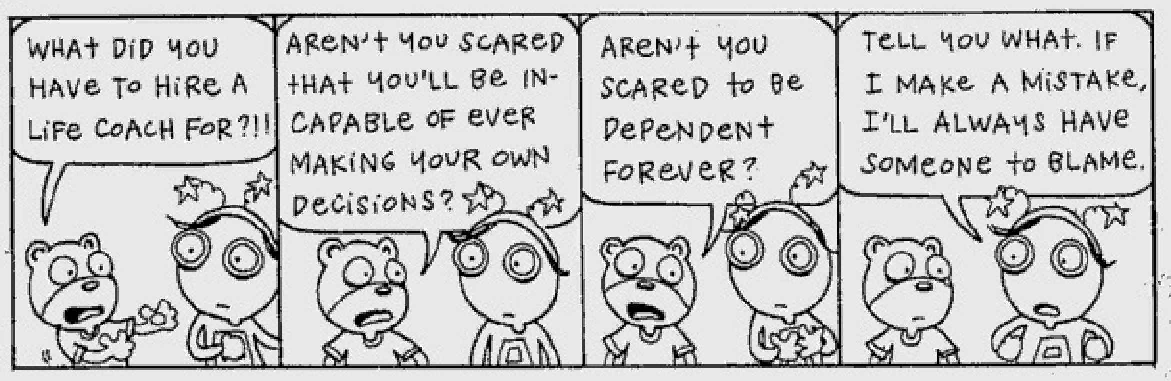
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


"I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE A POEM LOVELY AS A TREE!"
9-21
BONK
OR AN ACORN.

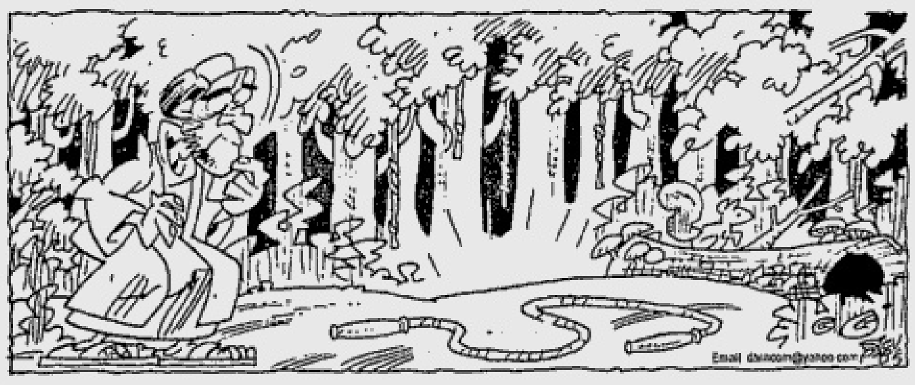
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO HIRE A LIFE COACH FOR?!!
AREN'T YOU SCARED THAT YOU'LL BE INCAPABLE OF EVER MAKING YOUR OWN DECISIONS?
AREN'T YOU SCARED TO BE DEPENDENT FOREVER?
TELL YOU WHAT. IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, I'LL ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE TO BLAME.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


Email dbincom@yahoo.com

TROUBLED AND DEPRESSED AFTER BETRAYING THE CHRIST, JUDAS ISCARIOT WENT INTO THE WOODS TO HIDE. THERE HE FOUND ON THE GROUND A JUMPING ROPE DROPPED BY CHILDREN.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Those who know you respect you. Your ability to achieve small goals and minor successes leads to bigger successes later on. You know that this is strongly connected to your belief of what you're capable of. Be open to all kinds of new possibilities in the year ahead. It's a fresh road—a new beginning!
Birthdate of: Rob Morrow, actor; Faith Hill, singer; H.G. Wells, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Focus on business and commerce today. Stay on top of your bank account. Figure out what your cash flow is: Don't leave it up to guesswork. (Knowledge is power.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today. Although this can make you a bit more emotional than usual, it also gives you a little bit of extra luck! You've got the edge over everyone else. Wheee!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're naturally busy. You're curious about everything. Today, however, you need to give yourself some good old-fashioned rest and relaxation. Try to hide out somewhere for a while.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A confidential heart-to-heart talk with a friend (probably a female friend) can help you today. You need feedback, and you also need a sympathetic listener.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Whether or not you're aware of this, you'll probably call attention to yourself today. That's because the Moon is high in your chart today. (It's a good day to talk to the boss.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Moon is in Taurus, which fits well with your Virgo Sun. This is an excellent day for study and travel. You're keen to learn something new.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Sit down with others today to define the areas of your responsibilities. What do people expect from you? It's important to know this. (How else can you deliver?)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With the Moon opposite your sign today, you feel a need to talk to others. Partners and loved ones are very important to you today.

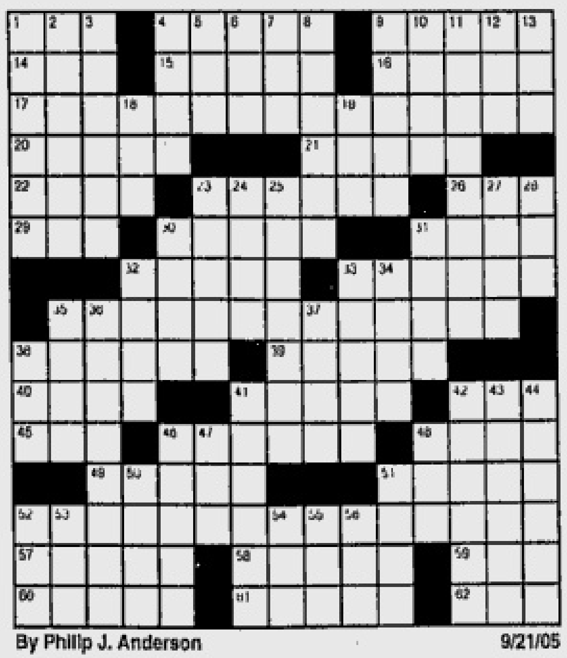
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Get down to busy details at work today. You can get a lot done. You might also want to work on home crafts or shop for items connected with personal hygiene and home care.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Romantic relationships are emotionally intense today! Your love for others seems to be stronger. In fact, flirtatious relations are sweet and tender now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with a parent or a family member are important today. Remember that you can't hear other people when your lips are moving.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel things today on a very "gut" level. That's OK. Trust your hunches. Refuse to take things at face value. ("These are not the droids you're looking for.")

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/21/05

ACROSS
1 Indy circuit
4 Barack of Illinois
9 Airhead
14 Simpson's judge
15 Ardent in the extreme
16 Separated
17 Manicurist's art?
20 __ looking at you, kid
21 Presses
22 Humdinger
23 Sappho's birthplace
26 Short snooze
29 Melancholy
30 Cheerful songs
31 Collection biz
32 Sentence break
33 Mistreated
35 Egotists' art?
38 Stupefies with drink
39 Connect
40 Right on maps
41 Kidney-related
42 987-65-4321 group
45 Metric square measure
46 "...__ no place like home"
48 Young or spin follower
49 Nostrils
51 Deceptive action
52 Physician's art?
57 Sandwich cookies
58 Have faith in
59 Play about Capote
60 Stingers
61 __ Monica
62 Half of the UAR

DOWN
1 Ink prints, briefly
2 Parthenon honoree
3 Decanted
4 Poetic peepers
5 Interdiction
6 Attys.' org.
7 DI times II
8 Off-the-cuff comments
9 Warm-water sharks
10 Exposed
11 Place of great disorder
12 Tolkien baddie
13 Final degree
18 Sea of France
19 Packed-house letters
23 Favors one leg
24 Pollster Roper
25 Race official with a gun
27 Copies
28 Pea package?
30 Storage place
31 Spoil
32 Coagulate
33 Vicinities
34 Bondsman's payment
35 Brown quickly
36 Concentrated substances
37 Fork point
38 Actress Arthur
41 Changes, as a timer
42 Wading birds
43 Lookout
44 Dudley Moore film
46 Support piece
47 That girl
48 Salton, e.g.
50 Perched on
51 Greek cheese
52 MIA verified
53 Nest-egg letters
54 __ pro nobis
55 Amusing activity
56 33rd president

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	R	U	I	D	■	P	R	O	U	D	■	S	T	S
D	O	N	N	A	■	L	O	O	S	E	■	M	E	T
T	E	E	N	Y	B	O	P	P	E	R	■	A	R	E
■	■	■	■	C	O	D	E	S	■	B	A	L	S	A
B	A	L	K	A	N	S	■	■	T	I	T	L	E	D
A	V	I	A	R	Y	■	S	T	R	E	A	M	■	■
M	A	T	T	E	■	W	I	R	E	S	■	I	S	P
B	I	T	E	■	S	A	L	E	S	■	I	N	C	A
I	L	L	■	G	O	L	L	Y	■	M	O	D	E	S
■	■	E	V	E	N	T	S	■	P	A	T	E	N	T
B	O	W	I	N	G	■	■	P	A	R	A	D	E	S
A	L	O	N	E	■	F	E	A	T	S	■	■	■	■
K	I	M	■	S	H	O	R	T	S	H	O	R	T	S
E	V	E	■	I	M	A	G	E	■	A	W	A	K	E
D	E	N	■	S	O	L	O	S	■	L	E	T	O	N

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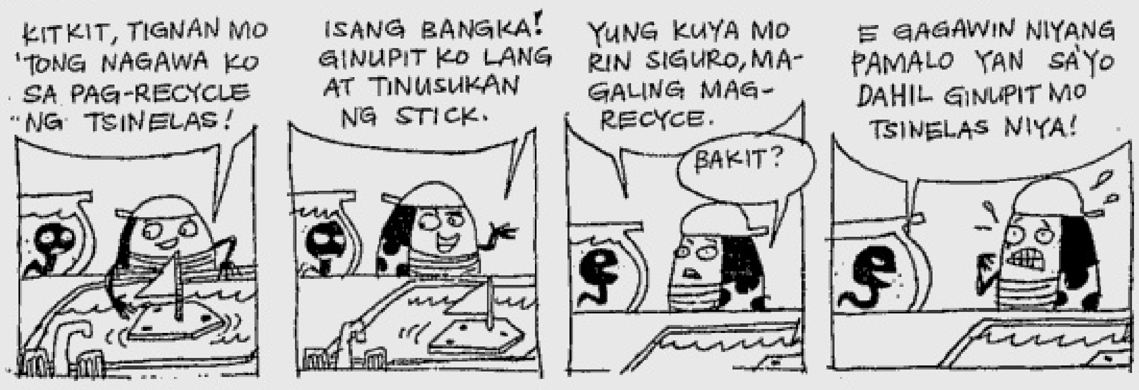
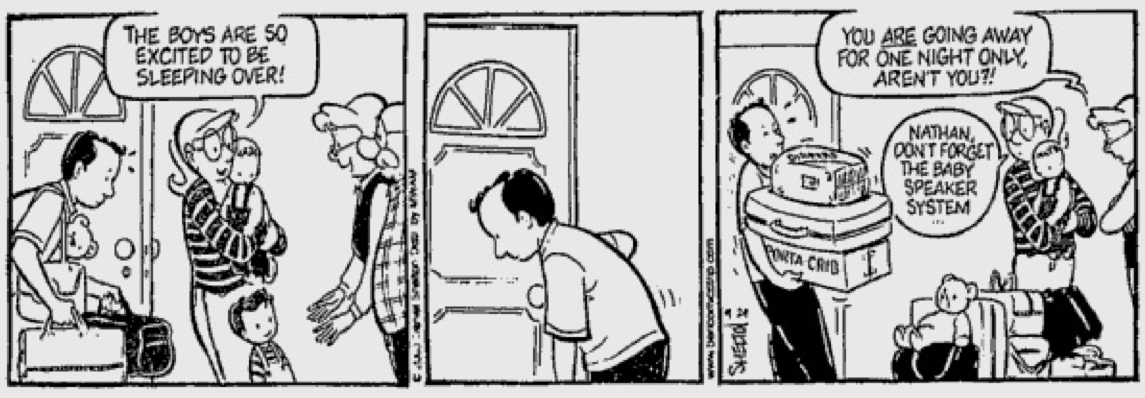
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITKIT, TIGNAN MO 'TONG NAGAWA KO SA PAG-RECYCLE NG TSINELAS!
ISANG BANGKA! GINUPIT KO LANG AT TINUSUKAN NG STICK.
YUNG KUYA MO RIN SIGURO, MAGALING MAG-RECYCE.
BAKIT?
E GAGAWIN NIYANG PAMALO YAN SA'YO DAHIL GINUPIT MO TSINELAS NIYA!

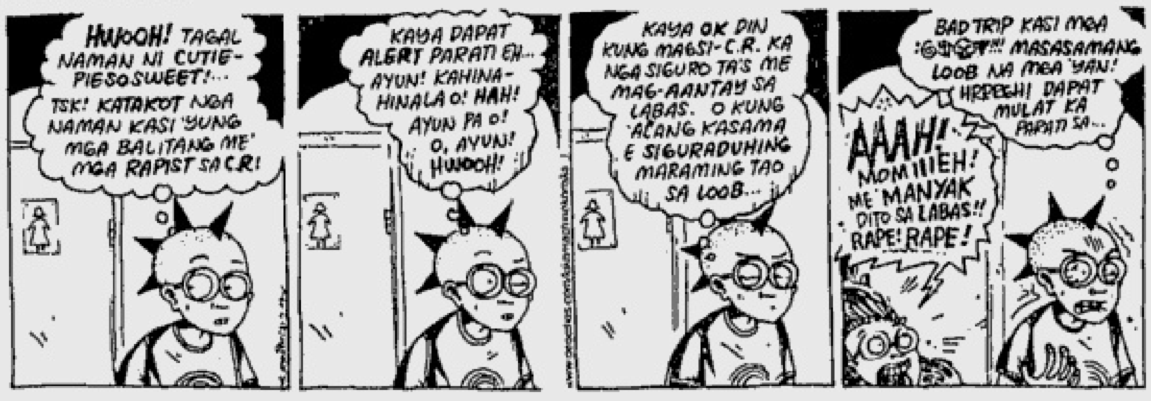
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THE BOYS ARE SO EXCITED TO BE SLEEPING OVER!
YOU ARE GOING AWAY FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, AREN'T YOU?!
NATHAN, DON'T FORGET THE BABY SPEAKER SYSTEM
PORTA CRIB

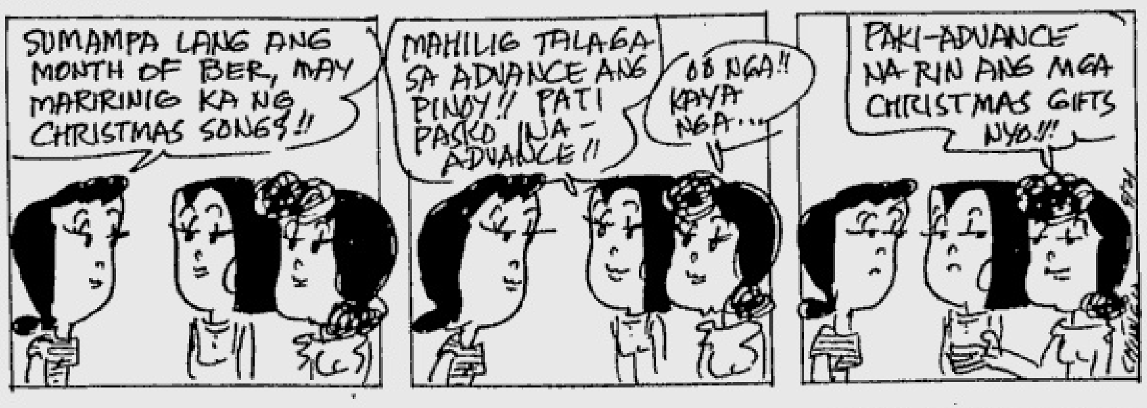
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HUOOH! TAGAL NAMAN NI CUTIE-PIESOSWEET!...
TSK! KATAKOT NGA NAMAN KASI 'YUNG MGA BALITANG ME' MGA RAPIST SA C.R!
KAYA DAPAT ALERT PARATI EH... AYUN! KAHINA-HINALA O! HAH! AYUN PA O! O, AYUN! HUOOH!
KAYA OK DIN KUNG MAGSI-C.R. KA NGA SIGURO TA'S ME MAG-AANTAY SA LABAS. O KUNG 'ALANG KASAMA E SIGURADUHING MARAMING TAO SA LOOB...
BAD TRIP KASI MGA !!! MASASAMANG LOOB NA MGA 'YAN! HRPEGH! DAPAT MULAT KA PARATI SA...
AAAH! MOMIIIEH! ME MANYAK DITO SA LABAS!! RAPE! RAPE!

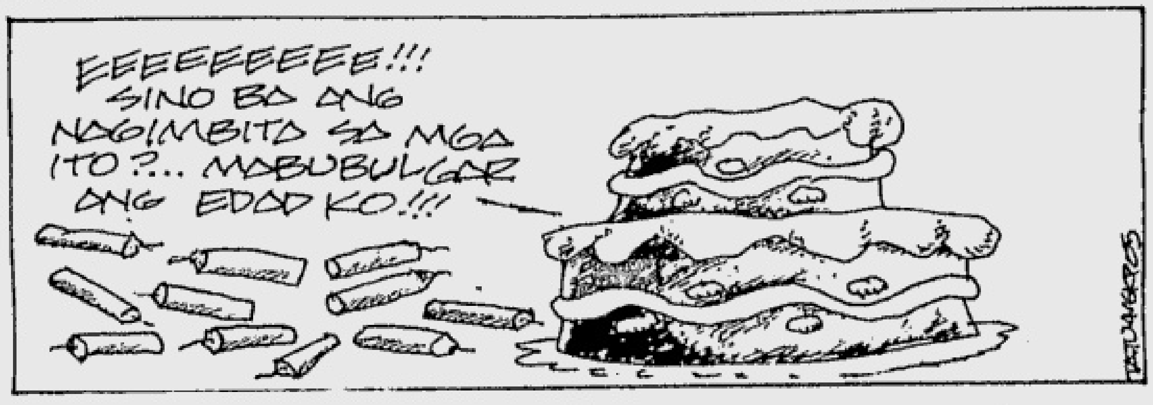
LOVEKNOTS

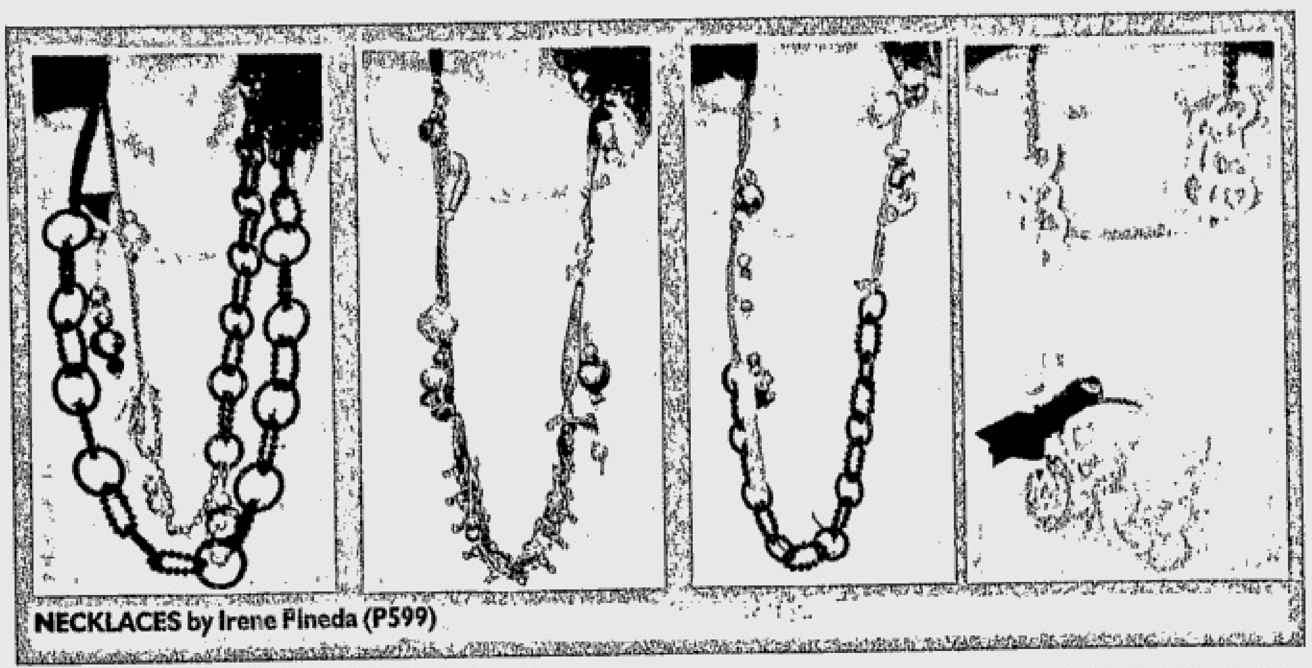
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SUMAMPA LANG ANG MONTH OF BER, MAY MARIRINIG KA NG CHRISTMAS SONGS!!
MAHILIG TALAGA SA ADVANCE ANG PINOY!! PATI PASKO INA-ADVANCE!!
OO NGA!! KAYA NGA...
PAKI-ADVANCE NA RIN ANG MGA CHRISTMAS GIFTS NYO!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEEEEEEEE!!! SINO BA ANG NAGIMBITA SA MGA ITO?... MABUBULGAR ANG EDAD KO!!!



NECKLACES by Irene Pineda (P599)

From runway to everyday

From page D1

Line. It's still conservative but with more color. The Signature Line is funky, colorful and edgy," says Ruby Gan, COO and president of ShopManila Inc.

There are pumps for the office, high-heeled creations for evenings, colorful eye-catchers for fun days and ballet flats and moccasins for weekends. No matter which line they're from, Schu shoes are comfortable and they're never boring.

Flats, thongs, sandals, mules, pumps? Take your pick. With the wide array of colors—from neutrals to metallics—there's bound to be something to match your every outfit. If embellishment is your thing, there are ribbons, lace and even adorable little dolls and cherries.

There's really a pair of Schu for everyone. But with the limited stocks it carries, the chances of you running into someone wearing the same pair are zero to none.

Women with bigger feet will be pleased to know that Schu has pairs from sizes 35-40 and in narrow and wide styles. And with the price range at P799-P1,699, it's no surprise that some shoppers buy every color of the style they fall in love with.

New designs are released every month, so there's something new to look forward to. And Schu will have two end-of-season sales every year, something loyal patrons await eagerly. (Its Buy 1 Take One Promo some weeks back was a big hit.)

Schu's branches are also a gold mine for great accessories that match the shoes. The stores serve as a gallery of sorts for young accessories designers like Irene Pineda and Cherie Altea to showcase their latest creations. Prepare to fall in love with handpainted capiz pendants, chunky necklaces, animal print bangles and intricately designed earrings.

Schu was officially launched in Manila earlier this month, at a fun fashion show at Embassy that featured Schu's coming holiday collection with Jun Escario's clothes.

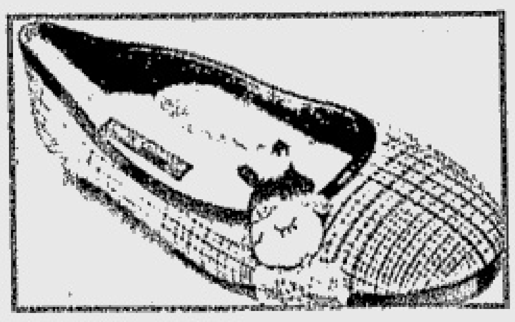
Right now, Schu has four branches, at Glorietta 3, Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Robinsons Galleria. Fans of Schu will have a lot of things to look forward to, including events and promos. The best way to keep updated is by visiting Schu's blog at http://shushop.multiply.com. Head over to www.schu-shop.com also to check out their other designs.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

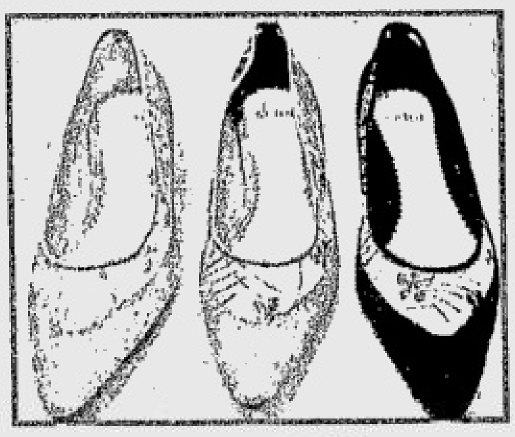
FEATHER brooch by Irene Pineda (P599)

HAND-PAINTED bangles by Cherie Altea (P659)



SCHU shoes are embellished with dolls, ribbons and other adorable details.

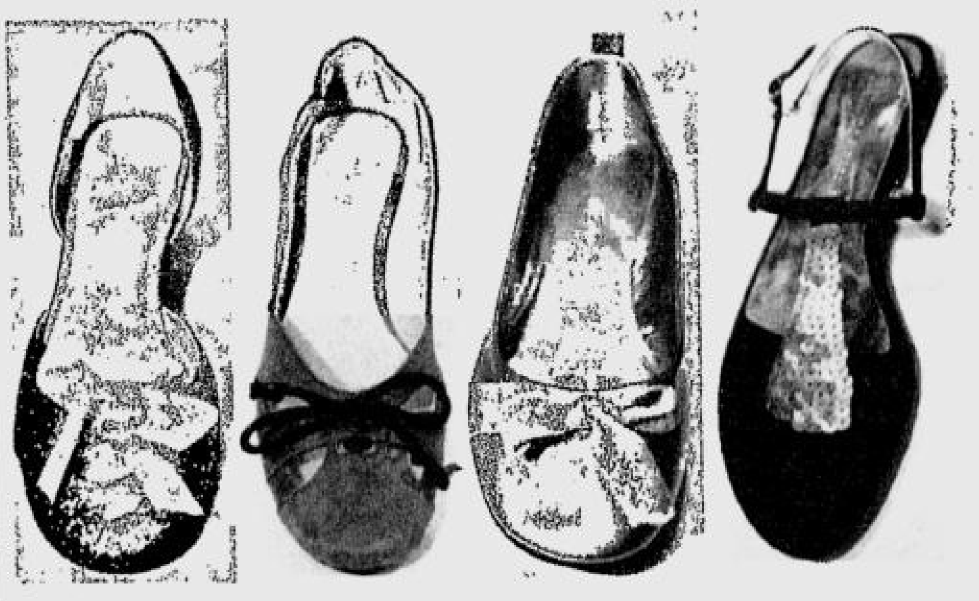
CROCO pumps (P1,199)

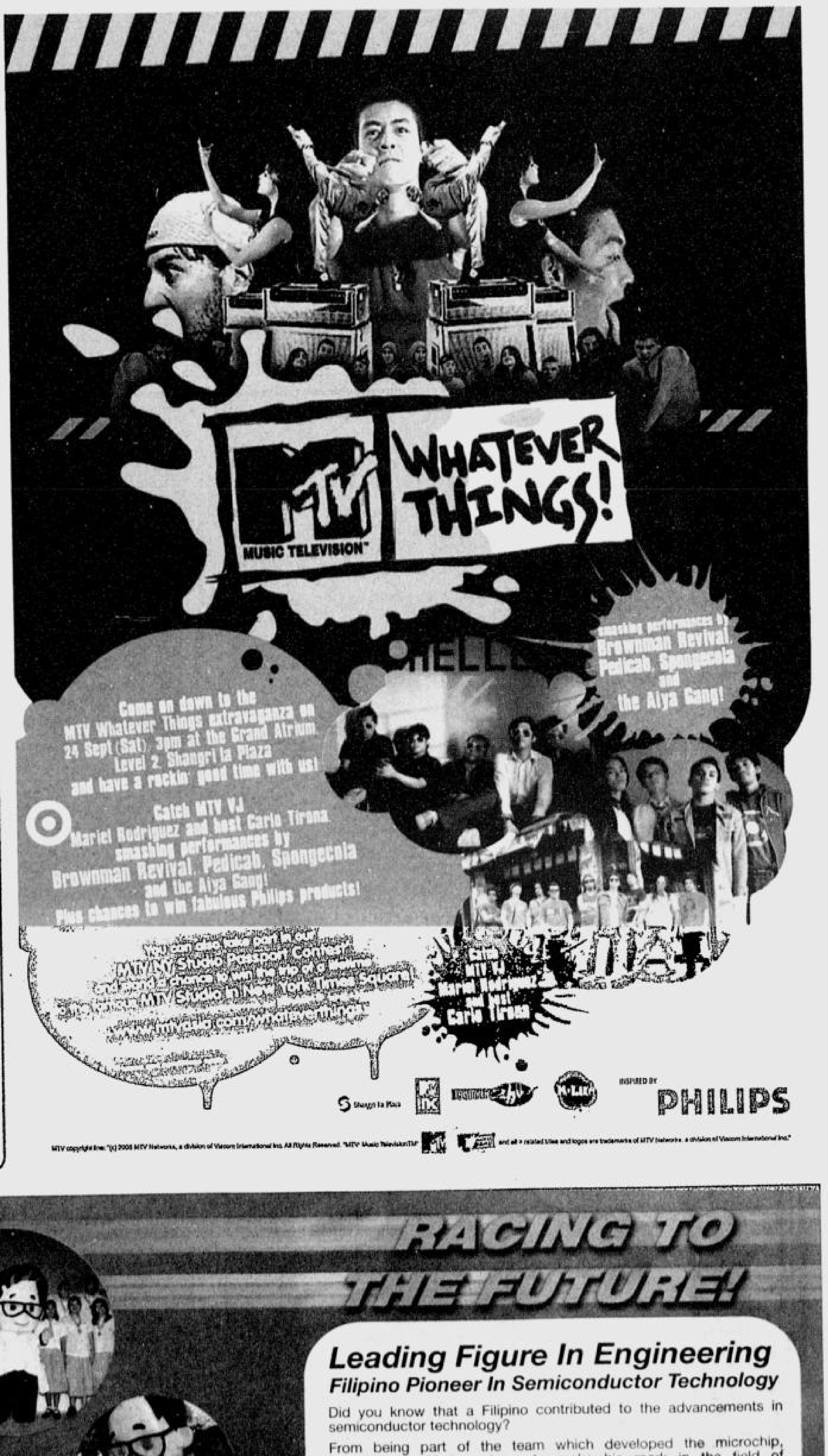


ULTRA-COMFY pumps (P1,199)

The Schu box

Whip out your wish list. Schu's Holiday Collection is hitting stores in November

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MUSIC TELEVISION
WHATEVER THINGS!
smashing performances by Browman Revival, Pedicab, Spongecola and the Aiya Gang!
Catch MTV VJ Mariel Rodriguez and host Carlo Tirona
Shangri-La Plaza
INSPIRED BY PHILIPS

Come on down to the MTV Whatever Things extravaganza on 24 Sept (Sat), 3pm at the Grand Atrium, Level 2, Shangri la Plaza and have a rockin' good time with us!

Catch MTV VJ Mariel Rodriguez and host Carlo Tirona smashing performances by Browman Revival, Pedicab, Spongecola and the Aiya Gang!

Plus chances to win fabulous Philips products!

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FRIDAY'S Glorietta's pride—Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza, Bartender Champion for the fourth year in a row. He will represent T.G.I.Friday's-Philippines in the regional tilt in Taiwan this October.

ED "Shadow" Yonzon, bottle-juggling and making T.G.I.Friday's Quezon City proud

NEWCOMER G-Boy "Slush" Peralta of T.G.I. Friday's Sta. Lucia, first runner-up

RUEL "Twister" Cuadra of T.G.I. Friday's Alabang Town Center made the right moves and got his home branch an award for being the Best in Sensitivities and Wine categories.

T.G.I. Friday's Bartender Championship crowns a four-time winner

Big battle of bottles

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

BOTTLES WERE FLIPPED and drinks were tossed at the Alabang Town Center Activity Area as T.G.I. Friday's recently held its 10th "Shake, Rattle and Pour" Bartender Championship—the ultimate and original quest for the best bartender in the country.

Starting out as a pub-bar-bistro-watering hole put up by perfume dealer Allan Stillman in New York in 1965, T.G.I. Friday's has gone a long way in the food industry. Now it also aims to bring out the best bartender in the business through the World Bartending Championship.

This annual competition begins in all the 700 individual T.G.I. Friday's outlets scattered in 60 countries and ends with a championship match where select Friday's bartenders vie for the "T.G.I. Friday's Best Bartender of the World" title.

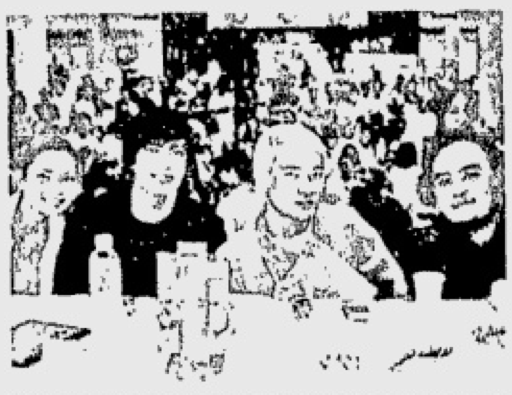
The nearest that the Philippines got to the top plum in the bartending scene took place last 1999 in Dallas, Texas. Ronald "Wonder Boy" Valencia—the pride of T.G.I. Friday's Philippines—placed second in the World Bartending Championship after winning in the Asian finals.

This year, representing the country in the regional tilt to be held in Taiwan in October will be Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza of T.G.I. Friday's Glorietta. Winning the top spot for the second time now, he beat four other T.G.I. Friday's bartenders: Jesus "Slush" Peralta (Sta. Lucia), Arnold "Fireman" Santos (Malate), Ed "Shadow" Yonzon (Quezon City) and Ruel "Twister" Cuadra (Alabang).

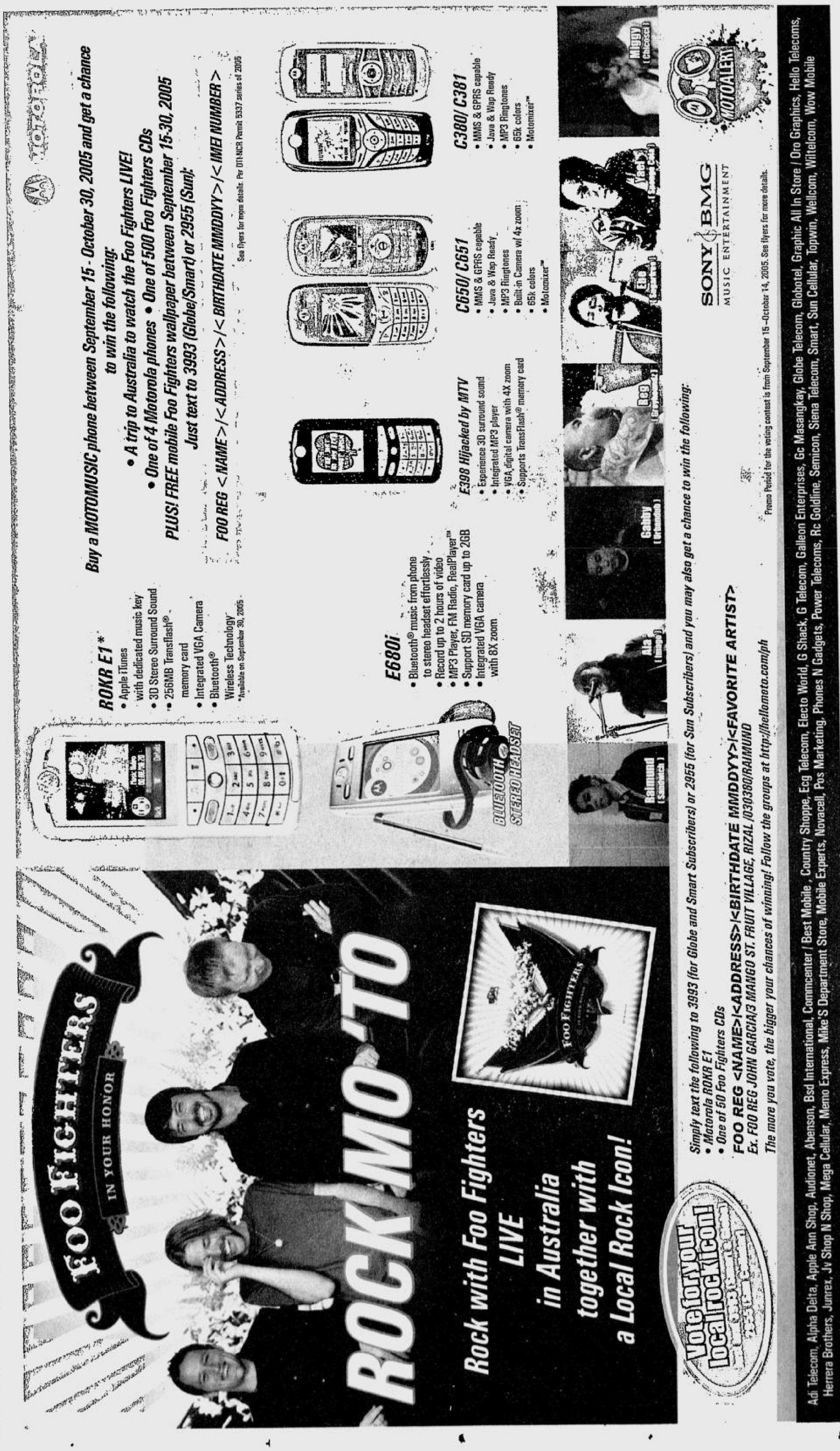
The panel of judges included eventologist Tim Yap; model siblings Rissa Samson and Robby Mananquil; Premiere Wines and Spirits brand manager Emil Liwanag; Nestlé Philippines product manager Jaime Lim; Nanet Daquiz—Bar department head of Perpetual Help College of Laguna; Rida Morong of Bistro Group of restaurants; and Julie Baluyot, winner of the 1998 Philippine Bartender Championship.

The panel unanimously agreed that Almanza hasn't lost his bartending flair and that his mastery of mechanics, bartending style, performance and guest interaction was still hard to beat.

DEFENDING champion Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza ready to defend his crown, with a cool entrance to the tune of the "Ice, ice Baby"



THE JUDGES for T.G.I. Friday's Bartender Championship 2005: Rissa Samson, popular ramp/commercial model and president of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP); ramp/commercial model, painter and DJ Robby Mananquil; eventologist, TV host and creative director of PDI Super! Tim Yap; and Emil Liwanag, Premiere Wines and Spirits, Inc. brand manager.



MOTOROLA

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*Available on September 30, 2005

E680i
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BLUETOOTH STEREO HEADSET

E398 Hijacked by MTV
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C650/ C651
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- 65k colors
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FOO FIGHTERS
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Rock with Foo Fighters LIVE in Australia together with a Local Rock Icon!

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Simply text the following to 3993 (for Globe and Smart Subscribers) or 2955 (for Sun Subscribers) and you may also get a chance to win the following:
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MOTOALERT

Promo Period for the voting contest is from September 15—October 14, 2005. See flyers for more details.

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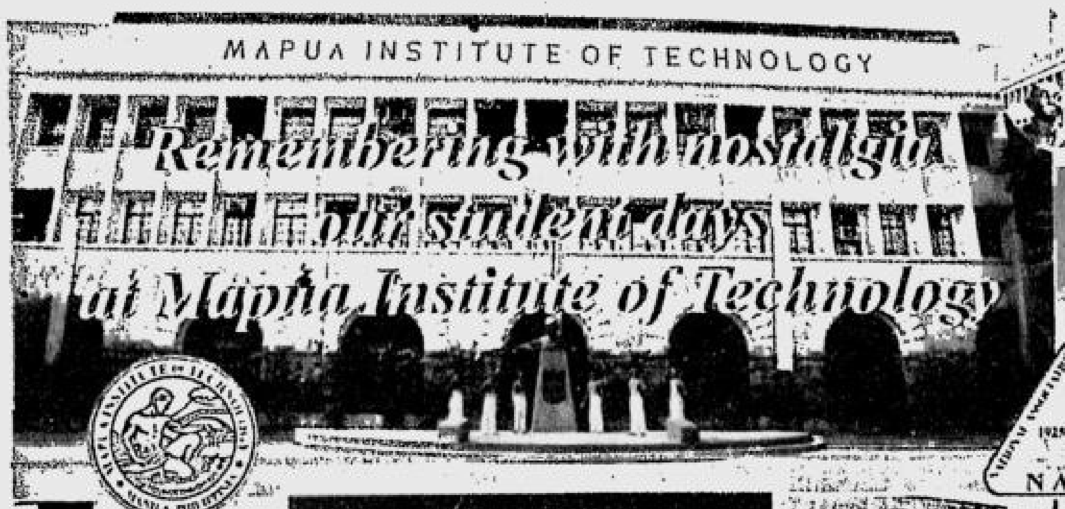
"I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN!" MOVEMENT

WE ARE MAPÚANS

WE WILL BE MAPÚANS FOREVER!

A Movement of Mapúans led by their Institutional Pillars: the National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA), NAMA's Affiliated Alumni Associations and Chapters, local and international, and the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI) that unites Mapuans into one fraternal community.


MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Remembering with nostalgia
our student days
at Mapua Institute of Technology

I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN! Movement
NAMA

An Outstanding Mapuan, engineer Bayani Fernando, is a graduate of the School of Mechanical Engineering of Mapua Institute of Technology. He is more popularly known as "BF". BF proudly raises the banner of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" Movement.

MAPÚANS FOREVER

GRADUATES OF MAPÚA WILL RENEW THEIR PLEDGE OF LOYALTY TO THEIR ALMA MATER, MAPUA INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY, AS PART OF THE MAPUANS FOREVER LOYALTY PROGRAM. THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2005 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY OF THE FOUNDATION OF OUTSTANDING MAPUANS, INC. (FOMI) ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005, AT THE MINDANAO BALLROOM, WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA. MAPUANS PARTICULARLY TOM AWARDEES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS ASSEMBLY.

Graduates of the various Schools and departments of Mapua Institute of Technology including its ROTC and High School will be asked to renew the Oath of Loyalty that each one of them took during their respective graduation days. In this pledge, they promised to defend at all times the name and the glory of their Alma Mater. The renewal of this pledge of loyalty by the Mapua alumni will be an important element of the MAPUANS FOREVER loyalty program that the Mapua Alumni community is implementing. This program was the Mapuan's positive response to the decision of the present owners of Mapua to change the name of the now world-renown academic institution for engineering, architecture and technology-oriented business management.

CESAR
D. CASTRO
FOMI President

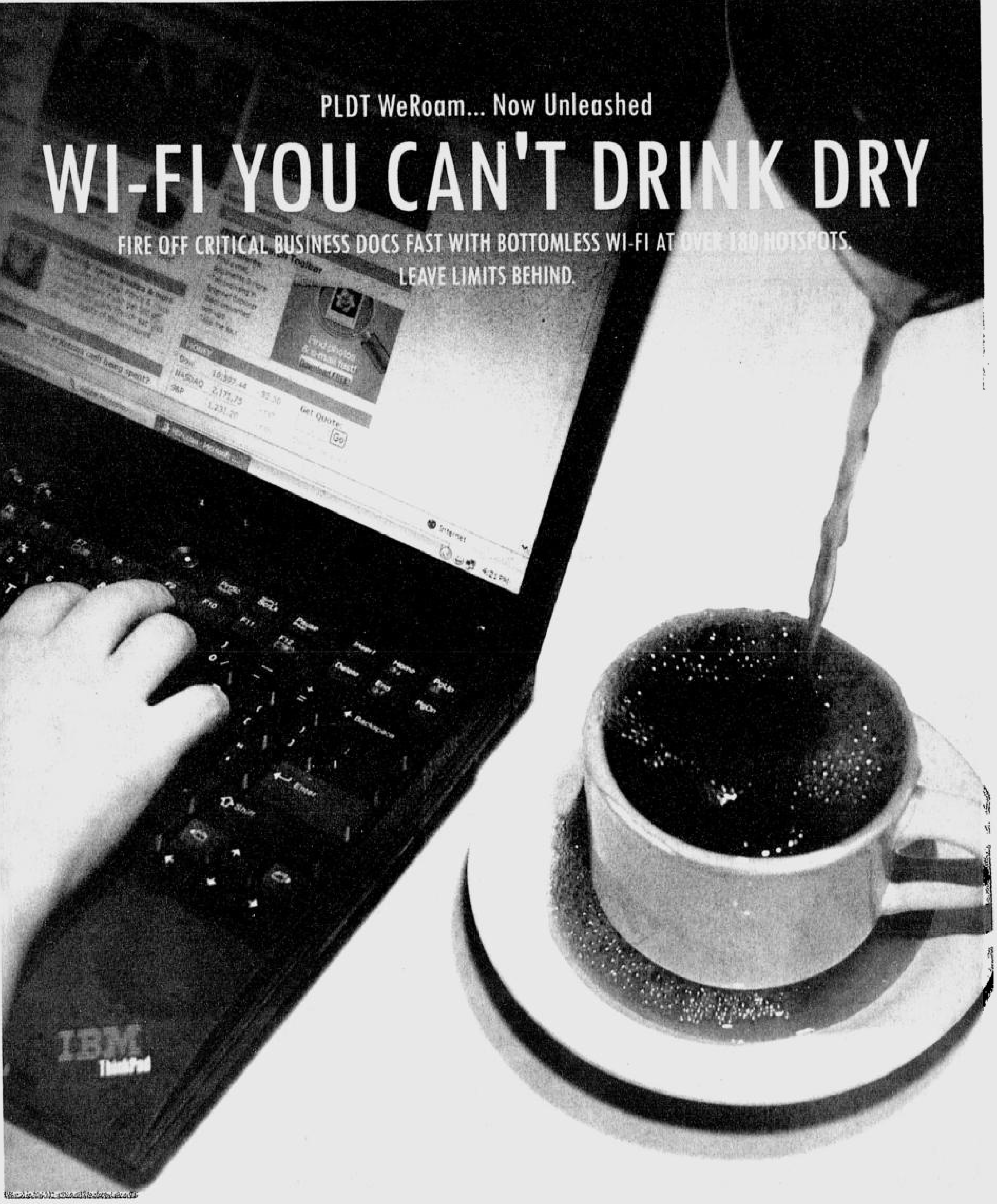
DOLORES
LEGASPI-LIM
NAMA President

The MAPUANS FOREVER loyalty program is strongly supported by the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI), the organization of graduates of Mapua who have been conferred with the highly prestigious and much-coveted The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Award, by the National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA), the premier organization for all Mapua graduates, and by the different Mapua Alumni associations and organizations and alumni chapters, here and abroad, affiliated with NAMA. The program is being implemented undet the umbrella of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" Movement.

ALFREDO
P. MONTECILLO
Immediate Past President
FOMI

HERNANDO
P. LIMSIN
Immediate Past President
NAMA

This was announced jointly by FOMI and NAMA through their Presidents and their Immediate Past Presidents. Engineer Cesar (Bobby) D. Castro is the president of FOMI while civil engineer Alfredo P. Montecillo is FOMI's Immediate Past President. Engineer and entrepreneur Dolores Legaspi-Lim is the President NAMA while chemist and entrepreneur Hernando P. Limsin is NAMA's Immediate Past President. Castro is concurrently the Executive Director of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" Movement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WeRoam Features
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ThinkPad Features
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HS 1959 ChE 1965 TOM 1998

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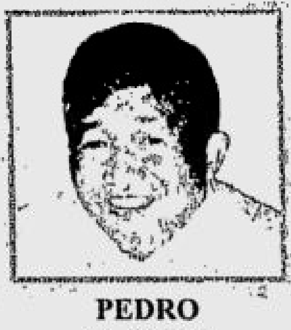
AR 1967 TOM 1995

ALEXANDER J. LEDESMA
Second Vice President
CE 1968 TOM 1993

MACRA ALFAJARDO-CRUZ
Secretary
CE 1966 TOM 1996

SERGIO C. BALOLONG
Treasurer
ME 1969 TOM 1999

JOSE P. MANANZAN
Auditor
BA 1955 TOM 1975


PEDRO M. JOPIA
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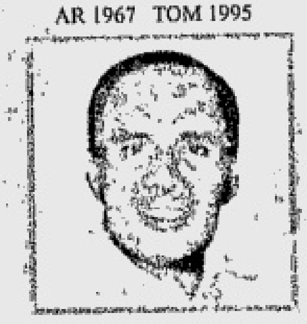
ChE 1974 TOM 2000

WILLIAM V. COSCOLLUELA
Trustee
AR 1956 TOM 1989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Trustee
EE 1972 TOM 1996

DOLORES LEGASPI-LIM
Trustee
ChE 1960 TOM 1996

ROGELIO C. LOMBOS
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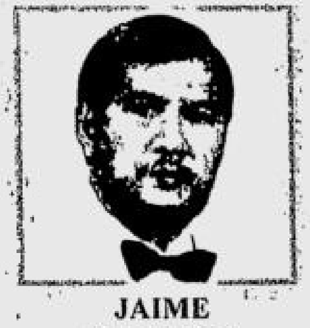
CE 1955 TOM 2002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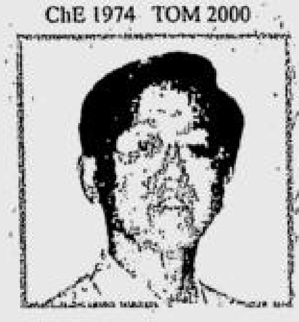
ELNORA YAMBAO-ROSAL
Trustee
Chem 1962 TOM 1982


NECISTO U. SYTENGCO
Trustee
ME 1975 TOM 1995

WILLINGTON K.K.C. TAN
Trustee
EE 1972 TOM 2003

ANGELITO M. VILLANUEVA
Trustee
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ADELAIDA LACABA-BAGO
Assistant Secretary
Chem 1962 TOM 1999

BELEN GOBUNSUY-CENIZA
Assistant Treasurer
Chem 1965 TOM 2004

HERNANDO P. LIMSIN
Trustee/NAMA President
Chem 1962 TOM 2001

ALFREDO P. MONTECILLO
Immediate Past President
CE 1973 TOM 1998

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ERNESTO V. VILLANUEVA
Immediate Past President
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ROMULO M. DEL ROSARIO
Past President
CE 1951 TOM 1984

RICARDO P. PAMA
Past President
CE 1961 TOM 1990

THE OUTSTANDING MAPÚAN
Don Tomas Mapúa
The Builder

FOMI's The Outstanding Mapuan Special Issue features Don Tomas Mapua, the Great Filipino Architect, Builder and Educator. The Great Man who founded Mapua Institute of Technology.

First Issue Copies of the Special Issue will be on sale during FOMI's General Membership Assembly on Friday, September 23, 2005, at the Mindanao Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza

AN INVITATION TO MAPUANS

MAPUANS PARTICULARLY THE OUTSTANDING MAPUAN (TOM) AWARDEES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2005 FOMI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 AT THE MINDANAO BALLROOM OF THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA. STARTS AT 6:00 P.M. ATTIRE IS STRICTLY FORMAL. FOR MORE INFO, CALL 889-9110 OR 889-8184

TOM

THE OUTSTANDING MAPUAN (TOM) MAPUA-NAMA AWARDS

By: Dr. Adelaida (Jo) Lacaba-Bago Chem '62 TOM '99

Mapua Alumni excel in whatever they do. For the most part because of who they are and the quality of the training that they have received from their Alma Mater. This is because firstly, you can not be admitted to Mapua if you do not possess the innate logico-mathematical skills required to pursue highly technical courses such as engineering, architecture, and chemistry. And once you are enrolled in the school you are provided the best learning experiences that develop and further enhance those in-born competencies. This typifies the best interaction of nature-nurture described by experts in educational literature.

How is excellence manifested by Mapua alumni? Mapua graduates consistently top board examinations; they eventually assume leadership roles in business, industry, government and academe, they become highly successful entrepreneurs; they become exemplary public servants; and they provide significant contributions to their respective community. They are "impact players". The quality of their work and behavior truly make a difference in the lives of the people they rub elbows with.

I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN
2004 TOM Awardee in the Field of Govement Service Belen Gobunsuy-Ceniza

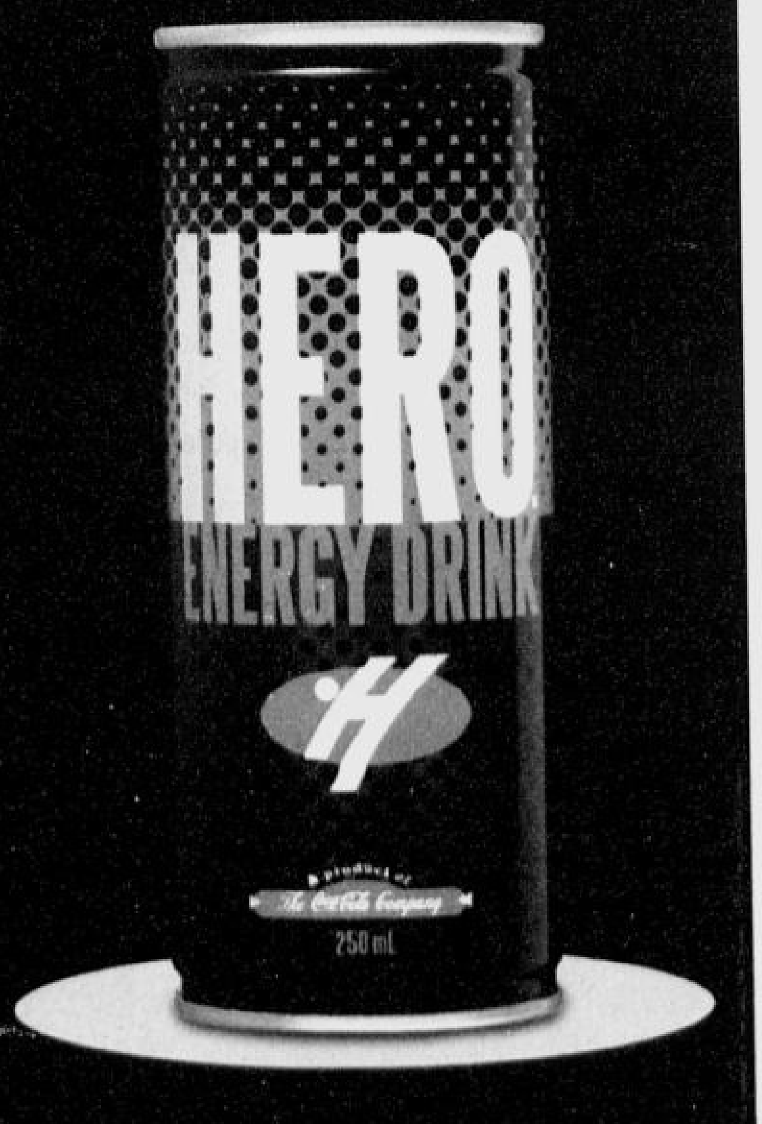
It is not surprising therefore why Mapuans are recognized for their excellent contributions to society wherever they are. One is no longer surprised to read and hear about Mapuans being recognized by various societies for their excellence in their respective fields of endeavor. It has come to a point where it has become axiomatic that to be a Mapuan is to stand out above the rest.

While all Mapuans excel, still there are those who are even more outstanding than the others. These are Mapuans whose contributions to society are way above conventional expectations of excellence. Their individual achievement and brilliance are truly outstanding and deserving recognition and appreciation. Because of the quality of their performance matched by the quality of their lifestyle, they serve as role models to all other Mapuans.

69th Grand Alumni
2003 TOM Awardee Engineer Eliseo B. Santiago receiving his TOM Award. Santiago was President and Chairman of the Shell Group of Companies in the Philippines

Commencement Exercises
2000 TOM Awardee Engineer George N. Lim speaks before the commenmence exerpises of his Alma Mater.

Walang atrasan, Magdamagan ang laban. 24 oras na pukpukan. 'Yan ang kailangan mo para umasenso. Kaya nandito ang Hero Energy Drink. Solid ang tama, with ingredients that help restore physical and mental energy. At sa sarap na sakto sa panlasa't bulsa, sa'n ka pa?



NEW FROM THE COCA COLA COMPANY.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI
NAMA

NAMA is the premier alumni organization of all graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology. Graduates of all Schools and departments of Mapua Tech including High School and Advanced ROTC automatically become members of NAMA on their graduation day. Affiliated with NAMA are the different alumni associations representing the different Schools of Mapua Institute of Technology as well as international and local alumni organizations and NAMA chapters.

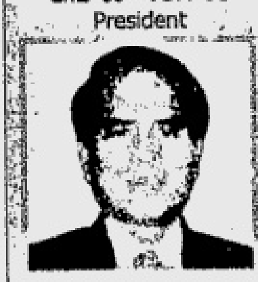
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI (NAMA) WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF ITS AFFILIATED ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS AND NAMA ADVISERS

OUTGOING NAMA PRESIDENT HERNANDO P. LIMSIN TURNS OVER NAMA LEADERSHIP TO INCOMING NAMA PRESIDENT DOLORES LEGASPI-LIM

NAMA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2005-2006

DOLORES LEGASPI-LIM
ChE '60 TOM '96
President

GLICERIA C. ESTRELLA
ChE '75
First Vice-President

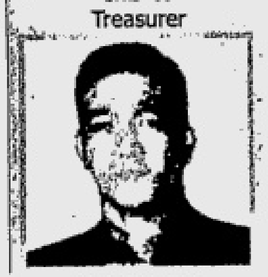


SERGIO C. BALOLONG
ME '69 TOM '99
Second Vice-President

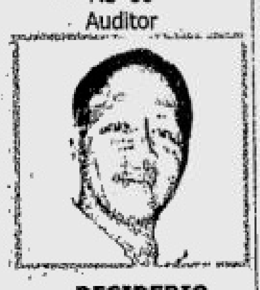
SAMSON UY
ME '81
Secretary

GEORGE ONG-TAN
ChE '89
Treasurer

AUGUSTO F. ANG I
HS '66
Auditor



FERNANDO G. CASTILLO
ME '94
P.R.O.



DESIDERIO C. AGBAYANI
CE '71
Director

LUIS R. SARMIENTO
EM '79
Director

EMMANUEL A. RIVERA
EE '69
Director

HERNANDO P. LIMSIN
Chem '61 TOM '01
Immediate
Past President

We are MAPÚANS
We will be MAPÚANS FOREVER.
We are Proud we are MAPÚANS.

DEFENDING THE NAME AND THE GLORY OF MAPÚA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MAPÚANS FOREVER
PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF THE BUILDER, DON TOMAS MAPUA
FOUNDATION OF OUTSTANDING MAPUANS, INC.
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI

MAPÚANS FOREVER
Information Drive and Promotion Campaign
September 2005 - January 2006

METROBANK
PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
BOYSEN
TOYOTA
ePLDT
BancNet
BAYANTEL

WE ARE MAPÚANS | I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN! | WE WILL BE MAPÚANS FOREVER!

MAPUA ALUMNI LAUNCH MEDIA-BASED "MAPUANS FOREVER" LOYALTY PROGRAM

The National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA) and the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI) recently announced the launching of a media-based loyalty program planned to reach the hundreds of thousands of Mapuans in the Philippines and abroad. The program has for its goal the strengthening of the fraternal ties that bind Mapuans wherever they may be and whoever they may be now. The program will have as its theme "MAPUANS FOREVER" and will be bannered by a five-month media-based promotions campaign that will be implemented under the "*I am Proud to be a Mapuan!*" Movement. The campaign will have its kick-off ceremonies on September 23 at Westin. Photo above shows NAMA President, engineer Dolores Legaspi-Lim (second from the right), and FOMI President, engineer Cesar (Bobby) D. Castro (fourth from the left), leading the formal presentation of the official logo of the program and of the campaign. In the above photo (from left to right) are: architect Jaime C. Marquez, first vice-president, FOMI, architect William V. Coscolluela, trustee, FOMI, Dr. Jose P. Mananzan, auditor, FOMI, Castro, chemical engineer and entrepreneur Alfonso C. Supetran, NAMA adviser, Lim, and NAMA Immediate Past President Hernando P. Limsin.

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SONY Cyber-shot
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Every P500 purchase entitles you to join
See mechanics poster for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-604 Series of 2005
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SMART
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Introducing the first ever

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Do-doble ang text mo whatever denomination you load!

Load ₱30 for texting and calling,

you get FREE ₱30 for texting!

Pwede rin sa ₱60, ₱115,

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No registration!
Just load up!

Until Oct. 17, 2005 only

- The FREE TEXT can be used for SMART to SMART text only.
- SMART Double Txt applies to SMARTLoad ₱30, ₱60, ₱115, ₱200, ₱300 only. Not applicable to call and text cards, PasaLoad, SMART Money, and Mobile Banking.
- Reload within 120 days to keep your SIM from being deactivated.
- You need a minimum of ₱1.00 load to use the additional FREE TEXT.
- Your additional FREE TEXT will expire along with your regular load.
  Example, ₱30 SMARTLOAD and 30 additional FREE TEXT will expire in 3 days.

DENOMINATION	SMARTLOAD PACKAGE	ADDITIONAL FREE TEXT	TOTAL TEXT	LOAD EXPIRY
30	3 mins. worth of calls or 30 text messages	30 text	60	3 days
60	6 mins. worth of calls or 60 text messages	60 text	120	6 days
115	13 mins. worth of calls or 115 text messages	115 text	230	12 days
200	25 mins. worth of calls or 200 text messages	200 text	400	30 days
300	40 mins. worth of calls or 300 text messages	300 text	600	60 days

SMART Load

₱30, ₱60, ₱115, ₱200, ₱300

Available to all Prepaid brands on the SMART network:

Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (₱1.00 per message in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you for details.

Promo runs from Sept. 17, 2005 to Oct. 17, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2334, Series of 2005.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

■ METRO / A15
QC to start issuing own traffic tickets on Oct. 1

■ ACROSS / A14
Tropical storm Labuyo kills 8 in Bicol provinces

■ BUSINESS / B1
Gov't slashes growth target for 2006

■ NEWS / A2
Palace names 33 constitutional commission members

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, September 22, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 286 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Wide rich-poor gap big obstacle to RP growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

INEQUALITY HAS BECOME ONE OF the biggest obstacles to rapid economic development in the Philippines, with the richest 5 percent of households accounting for nearly a third of the national income and the poorest 25 percent of households getting only 6 per-

WIDE/ A4

That's description of Bush, not De Castro, says Recto

By Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet L. Javellana

MIND YOUR OWN PRESIdent.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday said former US Charge d'Affaires Joseph

THAT'S / A6

DI BA TINAWAG NI BUSH YUNG GREEKS NA 'GRECIANS'?!

SOME political leaders, singled out in a report by the US Embassy dated May 10, 2005, are the following in alphabetical order: **1.** DENR Secretary Michael Defensor, "troubleshooter;" **2.** Francis Escudero, "darkhorse;" **3.** Sen. Richard Gordon, "gets things done;" **4.** Sen. Panfilo Lacson, "strict law-and-order;" **5.** Loren Legarda, "in strong position" to lead Senate bets in '07; **6.** Sen. Ralph Recto, "driven, charismatic, Vilma Santos, key force;" **7.** Susan Roces, "public appeal remains strong;" **8.** Sen. Mar Roxas, "surprise at his own popularity;" **9.** Sen. Manuel Villar, "independent thinker." Others noted are: Senators Pia Cayetano, Jamby Madrigal and Jinggoy Estrada; MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Reps. Rolando Andaya, Teddy Casiño and Imee Marcos and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

US profiles rising Filipino leaders

By Norman Bordadora

SPECIAL REPORT

THE US EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROFILing the Philippines' "up and coming political leaders" even before the "jueteng" and "Hello, Garci" controversies snowballed into the worst crisis to beset President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

An embassy report dated May 10 and prepared by political officer Andrew MacLearn said Vice President Noli de Castro and other personalities had been "jostling to stand out in a crowded field as they beg[a]n to lay the groundwork for the 2007 senatorial election and the 2010 national elections."

The report said that as of early May, Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II was "well-placed for the 2010 race," opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson "clearly want[ed] to be President," Metro Manila Development Authority Fernando was similarly interested, and young House Minority Leader Francis Escudero was emerging as a dark horse.

It portrayed Sen. Manuel Villar, Nacionalista Party president, as projecting a "nationalist posturing" that pitted him against certain US interests.

Sen. Richard Gordon was seen as a politician who got things done and was "not afraid to get his hands dirty."

US PROFILES/ A6

'No more maximum tolerance'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Uy

NO MORE "MAXIMUM TOLERANCE."

From now on, Malacañang will unsheathe its iron hand against those seeking to allegedly destabilize the government, ironically announcing its new policy on the day commemorating the 33-year anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday that authorities were now enforcing the "rule of calibrated preemptive response in lieu of maximum tolerance" following intelligence reports that anti-Arroyo forces intended to continue destabilization

NO MORE/ A4

Gonzales says nothing

Senate cites him in contempt, 1st Cabinet official detained

By TJ Burgonio

HE CAME, HE TALKED, BUT SAID NOTHING. And he landed in a hospital.

The central figure in a controversial contract between President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration and a US lobby firm finally showed up before a Senate panel, left more questions than answers, got cited in contempt and ordered detained.

Testifying before the Senate blue ribbon committee yesterday, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales grudgingly admitted he signed the contract on his own authority with Venable LLP on July 25, and nothing more.

In the next three hours, Gonzales evaded senators' simple questions like who paid the firm's monthly retainer of $75,000, who were the private individuals who donated money to pay the firm and who referred him to the Venable executives.

For this, he earned the wrath of the senators and became the first Cabinet official to be detained in the Senate.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the panel, said that because the national security adviser had "refused to answer questions which are relevant and material to the matter under inquiry, the committee without any objection hereby cites Gonzales in contempt and orders his detention until he answers the questions asked."

Malacañang last night appealed to the Senate to reconsider its decision.

"We are sure that our senators appreciate that co-equal institutions should respect each other in a democratic republican system," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

He said that in his position,

GONZALES/ A6

JESS YUSON

GOING BANANAS. Secretary Norberto Gonzales takes a banana break after being grilled to a crisp by the Senate blue ribbon committee for his repeated refusal for over three hours to answer questions.

Gonzalez likens Jalosjos' case to Ninoy Aquino's

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration would not allow Romeo Jalosjos, a former congressman serving two life sentences for raping a child, to die in jail of a serious heart ailment.

Gonzalez drew a parallel between Jalosjos and former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. who was freed by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1980 after languishing in jail for nearly eight years to undergo a triple heart bypass in the United States.

"Even Aquino was not allowed to die," Gonzalez said, recalling Marcos' decision to grant his foremost political rival a furlough. Aquino was assassinated on his return from the United States in 1983 to rally the opposition against Marcos.

Gonzalez's statement in an interview with the INQUIRER was the strongest indication yet that the 64-year-old Jalosjos would be pardoned and freed since his conviction for statutory rape of an 11-year-old girl and other acts of lasciviousness in 1997.

Gonzalez said that to allow the former representative of Zamboanga del Norte to perish at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) would be dangerous and would not sit well with the government's efforts to bring about a humane society.

"I said dangerous because it would be embarrassing that within the ambit of the law there is such a thing as humanitarian reasons. So if you know that person is really sick and may die and still insist in incarcerating (him), that may be something in your conscience although legally you may do that," he said.

Asked whether Jalosjos earned his release for delivering a landslide vote for Ms Arroyo in his province in last year's election, Gonzalez said the grant of pardon was "an exclusive power of the President."

"Humanitarian or political?.

GONZALEZ/ A4

Bongbong: Marcoses victims of rights abuse

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILOCOS NORTE GOV. FERDInand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. yesterday said the Marcoses were the victims of human rights abuse because the government continued to deny his father the right to a hero's burial.

"If there is a president that should be buried [at the Libingan ng mga Bayani] it is him because he was president for the longest time," the young Marcos said in an interview at the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino in Laoag City where a tourism convention was held.

Marcos was reacting to reports that the government was keen on having the remains of Haydee Yorac, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, buried at the Libingan in Makati City.

"It's the same old political issue—that if you are a Marcos, you do not have the same rights as every other Filipino citizen. It has always been a political thing

BONGBONG/ A4

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A DAY OF RAGE for thousands of Filipinos who converge on Ayala Avenue to press demands for the ouster of President Arroyo even as they remember the rage from somewhere in time 33 years ago.

Rallies remember truth suppressed yesterday

By Volt Contreras, Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

REMEMBRANCE OF "TRUTH suppressed" during the Marcos regime provided a fresh rallying point yesterday for groups seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, as they resumed their fight in the streets two weeks after a failed bid in the House of Representatives to have her impeached.

Opposition leaders, militants, and civil society groups held their second major rally in three months at the Makati business district to press Ms Arroyo's resignation—this time drawing perceived parallels between her and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Rallies marking the 33rd anniversary of Marcos' declaration of martial law were also staged in other parts of the country.

At least 5,000 members of multisectoral groups staged protests in Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Leyte and Cebu.

The rallies, which also called for the ouster of Ms Arroyo, attracted 2,200 protesters in Iloilo City; 500 in Cebu City; 300 in Roxas City; 1,500 in Kalibo; 500 in Tacloban and 800 in Bacolod.

The gathering in Makati gave leaders of Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan (Coalition for the Truth)

RALLIES/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme N. Luzon will be stormy with rough seas. The rest of N. Luzon will have rains, gusty winds, and rough seas. Central and S. Luzon and W. Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rains and thunderstorms. The rest of Visayas and Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/22/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Palace names 33 Concom members

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY announced the names of 33 individuals for the 50-member Constitutional Commission, the body that it has created to jump-start the process to amend the Constitution.

The list included a "good mix" of prominent businessmen, constitutional experts, academics, incumbent and former local officials and even newspaper columnists.

But none of the 33 could be seen as being identified with the opposition.

"Unfortunately, (there was) no personality identified with the opposition who seemed to be interested," Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao told a Palace press conference.

He said Malacañang would have wanted the opposition to be represented in the body but "unfortunately they were obviously in a different mode of thinking when the executive order was drafted."

A total of 150 nominations were received by the PMS, according to Tiglao, who noted that some of those nominated had backed out because they had to attend to "urgent" work.

The names of the rest of the members of the commission was likely to be announced next week but the President was not bound to fill up all 50 seats, said Tiglao.

He said the commission was tentatively set to start its work on Sept. 28, or two weeks behind the original Sept. 15 schedule.

The commission is tasked to study proposed amendments to the Constitution and submit a report to the President at the end of the year. The executive branch would then submit a report for the scrutiny and approval of Congress.

Tiglao said it was still Congress that would have to amend the Constitution.

"It's a study group, it's advisory body and I think the Congress would even appreciate that a group of the best and the brightest has been pulled together to provide them staff support," Tiglao said.

The 33 members of the commission included constitutional experts like former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, UP Board of Regents member Nelia Gonzales and Lito Monico Lorenzana of the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines; prominent businessmen like Ambassador Alfredo Yuchengco, Donald Dee (president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Sergio Ortiz (PCCI chair) and Francis Chua; labor leaders like Democrito Mendoza of the Trade Union of the Philippines and Sonny Matula of the Federation of Free Workers); San Fernando mayor Oscar Rodriguez, Biliran Mayor Gerardo Espina Sr.; ex-officials like former Sen. Vicente Paterno, former Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, former Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo and former Rizal Rep. Gilberto Duavit; and newspaper columnists Jarius Bondoc, Alex Magno and Carmen Pedrosa.

Christine Avedaño

Ex-hostage Angelo loses job at Clark

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Angelo de la Cruz, the former truck driver held hostage by Iraqi militants, has been dismissed by his employer at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga for alleged misbehavior.

De la Cruz, who was freed by his captors in July last year, said he wants to get his job back as a "rock loading operator" at the Philippine Coastal Storage and Pipeline Corp.

"I was illegally terminated," the 48-year-old De la Cruz told the INQUIRER by phone from Barangay Buenavista in Mexico town, where he and his family live.

De la Cruz, who tended to oil tanks and loaded these into tankers, was terminated on Aug. 14 for smoking inside the company's premises, quarreling with his co-workers, and differences with his supervisors.

He has since been barred from entering the company's premises.

The former hostage started working for Coastal in September last year through the help of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Emmanuel Angeles, former Clark Development Corp. president. He was paid P14,400 monthly.

De la Cruz said he would file a case against his supervisors – Milo Sesante, Manny Lopez and Bienvenido Tan III and has asked the assistance of former Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama.

"I am determined to get justice," De la Cruz said.

The management of Coastal, reached through CDC president Antonio Ng, declined to issue a statement on its alleged illegal dismissal of De la Cruz.

Sesante, the operations manager, did not take calls through the company's trunk lines.

COPW SUPPORTS CHARGES FILED BY SEC AGAINST CAP

Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) fully supports the criminal complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) against College Assurance Plan (CAP) and its officials.

As far back as 8 months ago, the COPW has been in close consultation with SEC in demanding CAP to answer the issues published in all the COPW print ads.

COPW has requested the SEC to compel CAP to disclose the following:

1) The **number of Traditional or Open-ended plans sold** as this is crucial to CAP's viability.
2) The **criteria for investments by the trustee banks** and whether the investments made have deviated from the policy of prudence and conservatism.

COPW is pleased that SEC has responded to the public clamor for it to exercise its power and protect the CAP planholders. Also, COPW commends the thorough investigation on the CAP issue by the Senate Committee on Trade & Commerce led by Sen. Mar Roxas with Sen. Serge Osmeña III.

COPW shares the findings and opinions of **Atty. Maricel Pascual-Lopez** of the **Syquia Pascual-Lopez & Santos** Law Firm, with whom the COPW has closely worked with on CAP:

1) In the Senate public hearing on June 20, it was revealed that P2 billion of the assets in the P4.7 billion trust fund are questionable.
2) SEC has also disclosed that from the P8.7 billion trust fund as of December 2004, P4 billion of the funds were released to pay existing obligations for 2005. However, the SEC informed the Senate that ONLY approximately P400 million was actually released for tuition fee payments.
3) SEC may grant CAP a business permit to sell ONLY Fixed or Close-ended educational plans. This permit should be granted ONLY after CAP provides fresh capital to cover its trust fund deficiency and it should come with clear and specific guidelines on disbursements and control.
4) A **new management committee led by Ernesto Leung** should manage the trust funds which will be invested only in publicly-listed securities and those with Triple-A rating.
5) Planholders who are still paying premiums and are not sure whether to continue paying CAP are encouraged to **consign/deliver their payments to the SEC - NTD for escrow.**

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Pawnshops get chance to auction Imelda collection

By Alcuin Papa

MOVE OVER SOTHEBY'S, Christie's and Bonhams. Make way for Tambunting and Cebuana Lhuillier.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government is considering holding in the country the auction of the multi-million-dollar Imelda Marcos jewelry collection, which has attracted the interest of the biggest international auction houses.

In a Manila auction, local pawnshops and jewelers like Tambunting, and Cebuana Lhuillier would be allowed a chance to bid for the right to auction the jewelry. These establishments regularly conduct public biddings of jewelry and home appliances in their inventory.

But PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede clarified the local pawnshops and jewelers must establish their credentials first.

"Everyone is welcome (to bid). They have to show their expertise, competence, historical background, etc. We cannot entrust these jewelry to any Tom, Dick and Harry. We have a criteria for choosing," Abcede told a press conference yesterday.

International auction houses Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams are already deep in negotiations with the PCGG for the right to auction the jewelry collection, which the government said is part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his family and associates.

Abcede said that by holding the auction in the country, tourism would be boosted and taxes collected would go directly to national coffers.

"I think it makes sense. This will attract a lot of tourists and the Philippines will be at the center of the world for once during the auction, and not Geneva or New York," Abcede said.

Geneva and New York are the venues for the auction world's peak seasons, Geneva in November and New York in May.

Abcede said the auction could be timed around the major jewelry fair in Hong Kong in March, during which participants could easily take an hour's flight to Manila.

The UK-based Bonhams chair Robert Brooks who attended yesterday's press conference, said that the country would be an ideal venue. *With a report from AP*

Michael Ray longs for sun, kin's visit

By Michael Lim Ubac

WASHINGTON D.C. – FORMER police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, held on espionage charges for two weeks already in an American prison, told Filipino consular officials he's hankering for some sun and a visit by members of his family, Ambassador Albert del Rosario said Tuesday.

The envoy said officials from the Philippine Consulate in New York visited Aquino last Monday to check on his condition at the Passaic County Correctional in New Jersey. It was the first visit by anyone from the consulate since Aquino was arrested last Sept. 10 at his home in Queens, New York.

"He has two requests – that his family be allowed to visit him and for him to get some sun," Del Rosario said. He gave no other additional details, however, except to say he believed Aquino was being treated well.

Meanwhile, speaking by telephone from New York, Aquino's lawyer, Mark Berman, told the INQUIRER that he has filed a waiver of his client's right to a preliminary hearing in a move to expedite the case.

Berman indicated the move was only a formality. "There would never have been a preliminary investigation," he said, because an "indictment (will have to be made) anyway."

Asked what the implications of the waiver were, Berman replied, "It's a way to move the case faster."

Aquino is facing criminal charges for allegedly passing US classified information about the political situation in the Philippines to three unidentified Filipino politicians, two of whom supposedly continue to hold high offices.

The charge sheet filed last week by the US Attorney General's office with the district court in New Jersey accused Aquino of acting as an agent for a foreign official without notifying the Attorney General, knowingly communicating classified information to an agent or representative of a foreign country, and conspiracy to commit the above offenses.

Aquino is accused along with Federal Bureau of Investigation analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American nabbed by the FBI at his home in Woodbury, New Jersey, also on Sept. 10.

Berman said Aquino will plead not guilty once the district attorney seeks a formal indictment in court within the next 30 days. His bail hearing, originally set for Sept. 21, has been postponed indefinitely. *With a report from Margaux Ortiz*

'Jueteng' making comeback in the North, Hagedorn tells Palace

ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER ANnouncing the eradication of the illegal numbers game, anti-"jueteng" czar Edward Hagedorn reported to Malacañang yesterday the resurgence of jueteng operations in two provinces in Northern Luzon.

In one province, he said, the jueteng operator is believed to be the brother of a high-ranking police official in the region, who also claims close connection with another high government official. In both provinces, jueteng is held three times a day, said Hagedorn, who is also mayor of Puerto Princesa City.

In his exit report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Hagedorn said that after exhausting the "friendly persuasion" approach, the full force of the law should be applied on those who continue to operate the illegal numbers game, including the imposition of sanctions against local government and PNP officials where jueteng may resurface.

Hagedorn, in a press statement, said that failure to promptly act on the reported resurgence of jueteng will cast grave doubts on the government's seriousness in its anti-jueteng campaign, and will only serve to encourage others to resume their operations.

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Wide rich-poor gap big obstacle to RP growth

From page A1

cent of the income, according to a World Bank report.

The poorest Filipinos "are effectively excluded from social and economic development" of the country, Joachim von Amsberg, the bank's country director, yesterday said in comments on the release of the bank's World Development Report for 2006.

An offshoot of the wide gap between the rich and the poor in the Philippines: One out of every three Filipinos aged between 6 and 24 has never been to school or has dropped out of the education system, according to a government survey released Wednesday.

The World Bank estimates that nearly half of the Philippines' 84 million people live on less than $2 (P112) a day. A recent study by the Asian Development Bank provides a regional perspective on poverty incidence: Some 1.9 billion people in Asia, or 60 percent of the total population in the region, live on less than $2 a day.

To underscore the huge income gap in the Philippines, the World Bank cited in its report a 1996 study showing that the top 10 Filipino families controlled 52.5 percent of the country's then stock market capitalization.

In comparison, the same study showed that in Indonesia the top 10 families controlled 57.7 percent of the market, Thailand 46.2 percent, Hong Kong 32.1 percent, South Korea 26.8 percent, Singapore 26.6 percent, Malaysia 24.8 percent, Taiwan 18.4 percent and Japan 2.4 percent.

Reducing poverty

Some Asian countries have made significant gains in reducing poverty. In the last decade, for instance, Indonesia and Thailand have cut their poverty rate by 11 and 9 percentage points, respectively. In the Philippines, however, poverty has fallen only by about 5 percentage points in the same period.

"High inequality and modest economic growth have translated into slow progress on poverty reduction in the Philippines," the bank said.

Even so, Amsberg noted that the Philippine government had begun to design programs targeted toward the poor.

He said the most effective policy for promoting equity was a solid financial basis and sufficient revenues to spend in pro-poor programs, which require raising more taxes.

"While sometimes perceived as antipoor, raising more revenues through improved administration and policy adjustments, is in fact essential for building a strong state that is reliable and accountable in undertaking policies and programs that reduce poverty," Amsberg said.

He said the bank report highlighted the need for governments, especially in poor countries like the Philippines, to implement "equity enhancing policies" that would include better public education and improved access to health care services; ownership of assets such as land, with secure property rights; access to credit and effective participation in public decision-making."

Amsberg said social indicators in the Philippines showed disparity among regions and among the rich and poor.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, for instance, only two out of 10 students who enter grade one complete secondary education, compared to 4.9 out of 10 in the country as a whole.

Education survey

The National Statistics Office 2203 survey on education bolstered Amsberg's view that high levels of inequality of income, assets and opportunities effectively exclude many from social and economic development.

According to the NSO survey, some 11.6 million Filipinos—or 34 percent of the country's with ages between 6 and 24—quit school prematurely or never received any formal education. One in five of these unschooled Filipinos "stated that they cannot afford the high cost of education."

Enrollment levels were lowest in the poverty-stricken ARMM where only about half of children and youth are in school or college.

Eighteen percent of children in the Philippines are not enrolled in primary school, a figure that rises to 40 percent for secondary school and 66 percent at college level.

The NSO survey also found that one in 10 Filipinos aged between 10 and 64 cannot read or write at all. Females have a higher literacy rate of 90.4 percent compared to males at 86.8 percent.

Two in 10 Filipinos are "functionally illiterate"—they lack numerical skills and cannot perform addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. Functional illiteracy is worst among the Filipino poor, where three in 10 cannot compute or lack numerical skills.

"In education, it is the children from poor families who do not go to school and who drop out the earliest," Amsberg said.

Health care

Poor Filipino families are deprived of access not only to education but health care as well.

"In health, for example, infant and mortality rates for babies below 5 years old, are 2.3 and 2.7 times higher for households in the poorest groups," Amsberg said.

"These striking differences highlight the continuing differences in living standards and access to health care. Poor families would usually forgo health care, or borrow money at usurious rates, sell the few assets they have, or pull children out of school, to afford health services they need for catastrophic illnesses," he explained.

Amsberg said economic growth alone was not sufficient to reduce poverty. "Better identification of the families with the least resources and effective targeting of social policies are important," he said.

The Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) seeks to achieve a 50-percent poverty reduction by 2010 not only through economic growth but also through specific strategies in reduce inequality and link the poor to opportunities for growth.

Good news

"The good news of this report for the Philippines is that many of the policies that are good for equity are also good for growth. Equity is complementary to the pursuit of long-term prosperity," Amsberg said.

"Equity is not only an end in itself but also an instrument to achieve more prosperity for all because equity often stimulates greater and more productive investment, which leads to faster growth," he said. *With report from AFP and AP*

Rallies remember truth suppressed . . .

From page A1

an opportunity to accuse the President of perpetuating political killings and of driving the country to further economic ruin.

The banners carried by members of militant groups and organizations of martial law victims, were easily outnumbered by streamers calling on Ms Arroyo to resign.

Cory, Susan not around

Some of the leaders of Bukluran like former President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Roces, wife of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., were absent at the rally. FPJ supporter Rez Cortez said Roces could not make it because she had an eye problem. Ms Aquino was reportedly conducting a forum.

Police placed the crowd at 5,000, a far cry from the July 13 anti-Arroyo protest in Makati that was attended by some 40,000 people. The INQUIRER estimated the crowd to be about 7,500 but organizers said the crowd reached 20,000.

In a big artwork, hung on a truck by a militant group, Ms Arroyo's face was juxtaposed with that of Marcos. Marcos was labeled "Bagong Lipunan." Ms Arroyo was labeled "Strong Republic." Below the caricatures were the words: "Never Again To Martial Law."

Truth suppressed

Members of Anakpawis wore straw hats saying "No To Gloria!" Members of Amihan used yellow umbrellas with words painted in red: "Gloria Layas!"

"This will go on as long as truth is being suppressed," said the assembly's host, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, a human rights lawyer during the martial law years.

Binay was alluding to the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, which was dismissed by the Palace-backed majority in the House of Representatives on Sept. 7.

"Here in Makati, democracy is alive and there is still freedom of speech," he said, when asked to react to reports some leaders in the business community have been complaining of the rallies.

Ironies

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the rally was timed with the commemoration of martial law to call on Ms Arroyo to face her accountability to the nation.

But the program, held on the Ayala Avenue corporate row across the monument of martyred Marcos archrival Benigno Aquino Jr., further highlighted the ironic confluence of forces against Ms Arroyo.

Martial law victims like Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, a political prisoner who suffered torture, shared the stage with former Marcos ally and now San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

Ocampo and other left-leaning figures, who on Sept. 21, 2001 staged a similar condemnation rally against then President Joseph Estrada, found themselves hosted by a key Estrada ally, Binay.

Asked how she was taking such ironies, Sharon Rose Ruiz-Duremdes of the National Council of Churches said: "We (my group) had many things against Estrada, but what is important now is that we have a common enemy... Let us see who will remain and who will keep up the fight (against martial-law type abuses)."

List of killed

Salvador Montabon of Tarangnan, Western Samar, said he was attending the rally because his 23-year-old son Marvin was shot dead by still unidentified men last March 14.

Marvin, a local member of a militant youth group Anakpawis, was shot right inside their home, his father said.

Montabon joined the march holding one end of a sheet of canvas that contained a list of "413" names—one of them Marvin's—the heading of which reads: "In memory of those killed by the Arroyo government."

Smaller but well-prepared

The rally at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas was like a well-prepared production. There was a booming sound system, lights, limited access entrances guarded by marshals, and a sturdier stage that carried the message for the day: "Gloria Must Go."

"This is much better organized, but smaller," said Linggoy Alcuaz of the National Coordinating Council of Volunteers, a group that supported Poe in the May 2004 presidential race.

Just the same, the venue was wired for a rock concert, with towering speakers on either sides of the stage, and audio vans at four points.

Alcuaz said the stage and tents for VIPs were set up with the help of Binay, while the sound system was provided by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

"Since we've had many rallies before, ... it's now easier to organize. People are more disciplined, and they know their roles," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Secretary General Renato Reyes.

Arrests

At the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City, 17 protesters, including two minors, were arrested for failing to produce a permit to rally.

Quezon City police enforced its "No permit, no rally" policy, arresting two "batches" of protesters belonging to the Partido ng Manggagawa, whom they allowed to stage a program for only 5 minutes.

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo condemned the arrests as suppression of the right to peaceful assembly.

Baguio Cit

In Baguio City, victims of human rights violations during martial law said they would continue filing cases against people who helped the Marcos regime abuse those who opposed it.

Lawyer Neri Colmenares, spokesperson of the Committee for the Defense of Liberties, said officials who served under Marcos such as Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, former President Fidel Ramos and police chief Arturo Lomibao were still around without being punished.

"We will file these cases if only to remind the public that martial law really happened and that these people should be held accountable," Colmenares said.

With reports from DJ Yap in Manila; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

No more . . .

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moves until the end of the year.

By enforcing this measure, groups seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo would no longer be allowed to stage rallies without any permit. Otherwise, they face dispersal or even arrest.

Ermita said the government would file charges against those violating the laws, including those inciting to sedition or rebellion, and would go after "people who have knowledge or participating" in these destabilization moves with pending arrest warrants.

"So I don't think the government or the authorities could be faulted if these warrants of arrest will be served," Ermita warned.

He did not identify these people.

But prosecutors from the Department of Justice yesterday filed charges of serious illegal detention against former National Bureau of Investigation director Samuel Ong and three others at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Makati City.

Ong, actor Rex Cortez, Wilson Fenix and Angelito Santiago were accused of illegally detaining T/Sgt.Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) for more than three days in Makati City.

The charge recommended no bail. Ong's whereabouts remain unknown.

Asked whether the destabilizers included incumbent officials, Ermita said: "Well, I'm just saying that if there are warrants of arrest existing and there is legal basis to serve them and it's within the law, then nothing will prevent authorities from taking such action."

In his weekly news conference, Ermita noted that as early as June, he had been talking of a plan of detractors, opposition, leftist organizations "to continue to destabilize with the end view of trying to weaken the presidency, Office of the President, the President herself and for the purpose of forcing her to step down."

This could be gleaned from the several large rallies staged by these groups from June to August and now yesterday's rally in Makati City to commemorate the declaration of martial law in 1972, he said.

"We have information that this will continue all the way up to the first week of October through second week of October, through November and December," Ermita told reporters.

"It is an overall scheme to destabilize for the sole purpose of forcing the President to step down in spite of the fact Congress decided (to junk the impeachment complaint against her)," he said.

Ermita also said he would oppose the plan of anti-Arroyo forces to put up a people's court to try President Arroyo on accusations she committed electoral fraud.

Establishing a people's court, Ermita said, was "an insult to our Constitution, democratic processes and courts."

In an earlier statement, Ermita said he has instructed the police and local government officials to "strictly enforce the 'no permit, no rally,' policy, disperse groups that run afoul of this standard, and arrest all persons violating the laws of the land as well as ordinances on the proper conduct of mass actions and demonstrations."

Gonzalez likens Jalosjos' case to Ninoy Aquino's

From page A1

Whatever. The Constitution never said that it must be for political or humanitarian reason ... It's something only the President can decide," he said.

Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Liza Maza said that the freedom of Jalosjos might be "the price of two 'yes' votes that helped kill the impeachment complaiht in Congress."

She referred to the support given by Zamboanga del Norte Reps. Cesar Jalosjos and Cecilia Jalosjos-Carren to the dismissal of the impeachment case. The two are siblings of the prisoner.

"Indeed, there is no shame in how this regime has been making a huge mockery of justice in this country," she added.

She said it was "totally appalling to women and children" to witness "hard-earned justice bastardized under the leadership of a woman."

"This teaches our children that justice can be bought, in cash or in votes," she said.

Gonzalez also took exception to the statement of NBP chaplain Fr. Robert Olaguer that Jalosjos "could be seriously ill but not critical."

"That is one assessment of a priest, it should be objective. You can't really say it's accurate because he is not a doctor." He said cardiac situations were unpredictable.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also said there was no recommendation yet by the Board of Pardons for the release of Jalosjos. "We have to follow that recommendation," he said.

But he indicated that authorities had started the process that could pave the way for a presidential pardon. Ermita said if Jalosjos was sick, he should be examined not only by his private doctor but also physicians from the NBP and certified by Malacañang.

Maza said that the treatment given to Jalosjos should also be extended to other inmates suffering from various illnesses. She said that there were prisoners "not privileged as Jalosjos—having no financial means or political influence—who grow old, get sick and die in jail, while yet to be convicted of the charges lodged against them."

"There are even minors who also have yet to be convicted but are in worse circumstances than this privileged criminal, Jalosjos," Maza said.

She added that the international community was still awaiting the release of minors in Philippine jails after Ms Arroyo made a commitment to look into their plight and facilitate their immediate release.

Bongbong says Marcoses are victims of rights abuse

From page A1

because those who have come into [power] since 1986 have been dogmatic in their opposition to the Marcoses," he said.

The family of the dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos, who died in 1989, wants him buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City but human rights groups and those who suffered during his 20-year rule are strongly against it.

Persecution

The waxen remains of Marcos are displayed in a refrigerated crypt beside his ancestral home in Batac town in Ilocos Norte.

His son said the government's refusal to give his father a hero's burial was merely "an extension of the continuing political persecution of [the Marcos] family."

"This is not surprising because, as far as I know, there is no provision in the Constitution for the heads of the PCGG to be buried at the Libingan ... but there is a very, very clear provision for presidents to be buried [there]," Governor Marcos said.

He added: "Talk about human rights violations. We are the ones whose rights have been violated and continue to be violated. But that is the way politics operates in this country. It is highly personalized; it is not rooted in common sense or in service to the people."

The governor said the probability of his father being given a hero's burial was "very small."

Any Catholic cemetery

In Iloilo City, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said the remains of the late dictator could be buried in any of the Catholic cemeteries in the country but not at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Lagdameo, incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said burying Marcos in the national heroes' cemetery would be "highly controversial."

"It is important that people know that we stand for human rights and nonviolence. As Christians, we are only concerned with a decent burial," he said in a short statement released to the INQUIRER yesterday.

"This can be done in any Catholic cemetery for the late Ferdinand Marcos if only to give him the peace that his remains deserve, since burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani would be highly controversial and not peaceful," Lagdameo said.

Lagdameo said the struggle of the Filipino people was manifested by the victims of the Marcos regime.

Never again

He pointed out that the monument to the Martyrs of the Struggle of the Filipino People in Plaza Libertad in Iloilo City had a message: "Never Again Martial Law."

"This message is accompanied with a prayer that we may be delivered from the same," he said.

Governor Marcos defended his father's declaration of martial law in 1972, saying it "was necessary."

"We were about to lose half of Mindanao to the secessionist movement. At that time, I remember, [martial law] was much welcome in the entire country," he said.

He said allegations of human rights abuses had no effect on the Marcoses because no case of rights violation had been filed against family members.

"[Martial law] is not something that we worry about because we know perfectly well that we have not been liable for any such abuses ... My mother has gotten a certification from the Human Rights Commission that there is no human rights cases [pending] against us," the governor said. *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Gonzales says nothing

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Gonzales was under obligation not to divulge security matters.

"The problem is he refused to answer our questions. We find his answers incredible and he does not indicate that he's telling the truth," Senate President Franklin Drilon said when asked if Gonzales was acting on his own when he signed the contract.

Drilon flared up when the witness said that he didn't know who would pay Venable for its services. "You're fooling us … You're fooling the whole nation. You say you don't know where the P50 million is coming from," he said.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said Gonzales had to answer nagging questions about the contract first before they even consider asking him to resign from his sensitive post.

"He has to answer the questions. We couldn't care at all if he resigns his position as national security adviser," he said.

After the hearing, Lacson said that they had received information that it was Tomas Alcantara, chief of staff of the President, who referred Gonzales to Venable and used funds of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan to pay the firm.

The Senate had summoned Gonzales to determine if he had the power to enter into a contract with a lobby firm on behalf of the government.

"I think he's a fall guy," said Sen. Richard Gordon. "He's covering up for certain people. I salute him for his loyalty," he said but he said he wished he would show the same loyalty to the Filipino people.

At the 1 p.m. hearing, Gonzales, who came clad in a suit but had to remove it because he felt warm, admitted that he broached the idea of amending the Constitution and commissioning a lobby group for such purpose with Ms Arroyo herself.

"She has agreed," he said, in response to questions by Joker Arroyo.

Gonzales said that when he discussed the terms of the agreement with the Venable executives, he raised Charter change and corruption as the issues for which they could seek grants from the United States.

Failure of judgment

"I don't believe that when we're putting this request that we would allow (the) US government to interfere with the content of the Charter," he said.

When asked how he, a nationalist, could lobby funds from the Americans, he said: "I don't know if it's a failure of my judgment at that particular time that I signed this."

Gonzales justified his decision to sign the contract, saying that his coverage as a national security adviser included maintaining political stability, which he said was related to Charter change.

Arroyo remarked: "Secretary Gonzales you're a very smart fellow. We're together in the martial law movement. I can't imagine that you have this flaw in your character. You have a nationalist bent. Now you come in and tell us, you don't mind foreign intervention."

Gonzales retorted: "I do mind foreign intervention. I do mind that the United States will interfere in the contents of the Constitution."

Under intense questioning by Drilon, Gonzales gave conflicting answers when asked if he had secured authority from the President to sign the contract on behalf of the government.

No specific authority

"I signed it on my authority although I thought that I had the authority," he said. When pressed further on the same issue, he said: "Well, I don't have the specific authority your honor … my authority is to get a lobby group."

Asked if he had the specific authority to sign this contract, he said: "No your honor … It's all premised on my assumption that I have been given permission to get a lobby group."

Gonzales later admitted that he had no written authority from the President, but assumed he had it when she gave him permission to "get a lobby group."

Arroyo asked: "Are you trying to be the fall guy here? You better be frank with us."

Gonzales replied, "I don't think I'm the fall guy here." He added he had to go back to the President to ask for a "clarification of the authority I thought I had."

Gonzales gave the same vague answers when asked by Sen. Manuel Roxas II if he had issued a check to Venable. "I assume they have been paid," he said. The Venable services were already at work, he added. Later, he also admitted that Venable had been paid for three months.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. then moved that Gonzales be cited in contempt, but Arroyo deferred action until the end of the hearing.

"I don't know," Gonzales said when asked again by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon who was paying for the contract, eliciting chuckles from the spectators. "I can't answer that for now."

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada asked Gonzales who referred him to Venable lawyers James T. Pitts and James George Jatras.

He tried to turn the tables

"I can't reveal at this time … I wanted to protect the person who referred me," he said, claiming that Pitts and Jatras signed the agreement with him because they knew he was the national security adviser.

Gonzales tried to turn the tables on the senators. Under questioning by Estrada, he disclosed that he had gathered some information that House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Rep. Rolex Suplico had been meeting with US Embassy officials "with the intent" to overthrow the government.

"That's why I'm interested to know documents … that have been leaked from the FBI," he said. Estrada did not pursue his question.

Gonzales said he signed the agreement with the Venable lawyers at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati on the night of July 25, hours after the President delivered her State of the Nation Address.

"She's aware of it," he said, referring to Ms Arroyo.

Under questioning by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Gonzales admitted that the deal was negotiated for a week, but said that he, although not a lawyer, did not seek the advice of the departments of justice and foreign affairs, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and even the Presidential Legal Counsel before signing it.

"I really don't know," he said when asked why he did not consult Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

He said he had recommended to Ms Arroyo that the contract be rescinded when she arrived in Manila from New York in view of the controversy it had generated.

At past 3 p.m., Gonzales complained of dizziness and requested a rest. The doctors, who were called in to check his condition, found that his blood pressure had shot up to 160/90.

While he rested, the senators held a caucus in a separate room and later announced the decision to cite him in contempt.

Hypertension

Gonzales declined to answer reporters' questions when he was led by security men out of the Ambrosio Padilla room on the second floor to the Senate medical-dental services office across the session hall.

Gonzales, who asked for a break after his blood pressure shot up two hours into the hearing, was later whisked off to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City for hypertension.

"While his blood pressure went down after the hearing, his heart beat was irregular. So we became worried," said Dr. Mariano Blancia Jr., head of the medical-dental services. He noted that Gonzales was suffering from "uncontrolled diabetes" that could trigger a stroke. His blood sugar problem was apparently the reason he immediately reached for a banana during the break.

"He can't stay here. If something happens, we don't have the facilities to manage his condition."

Arroyo said that Gonzales would be placed under the custody of the sergeant-at-arms while confined in the hospital. The committee would resume hearing once he manifests that he would answer questions.

US profiles rising Filipino leaders

From page A1

"The wild card, however, is whether the Philippines engages in serious constitutional change that would lead to a parliamentary system well before 2010, as numerous politicians continue to advocate," the report said.

The seven-page report is one of a number of documents obtained by the INQUIRER from a source who asked not to be identified. The documents contain updates on Philippine political figures and developments and the corresponding US assessments.

They are believed to be copies of files allegedly illegally downloaded from US Federal Bureau of Investigation computers by Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo.

Conversations

The profiles on the so-called emerging leaders appear to have been based on general information possibly culled from the government, media reports and social circles, as well as conversations with the personalities named or those close to them.

The conversations were either casual or formal meetings, as confirmed by some of the personalities interviewed by the INQUIRER.

Members of the House who were listed expressed concern that their conversations with US Embassy officials were being used as basis for profiling Philippine leaders.

"Is this meant to influence [Philippine affairs] or for [the US government's] own domestic purpose [as a guide] in coming up with foreign policy?" Escudero said.

He said he had talked with embassy officials in line with his work as House minority leader.

"I don't know the basis of their assessment," he said. "I suppose they're giving me more credit than I deserve. We had yet to be active at that time. There was still no 'Hello, Garci' tape and there was still no impeachment."

Said Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. of the embassy officials' repeated visits at his office: "I thought it was just banter. I never thought I was already being profiled."

The report said Andaya, chair of the powerful House committee on appropriations, was eyeing a Cabinet post after his term as congressman.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, described in the report as the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' "most politically ambitious child," said it showed that the US government was in constant search for allies among the Philippines' leaders.

"They want the country to remain a reliable ally, which they are not certain the country would be," Marcos told the INQUIRER.

De Castro

The report said De Castro and a number of senators had been busy preparing for the 2010 presidential election. But even before the political crisis thrust De Castro into the limelight as Ms Arroyo's constitutional successor, the US Embassy already had a dim view of him.

"Given that the last two Presidents—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Joseph "Erap" Estrada—rose from the vice presidency, he likely has similar ambitions, although many view him as a substantive lightweight," the report said.

"De Castro's biggest liabilities appear to be political and managerial experience as well as his weak English language. His speech-making even in Tagalog has not won rave reviews, either," it also said.

The report said a political officer of the US Embassy had spoken with De Castro's chief of staff, lawyer Jesse Andres, and was told that the Vice President's priorities included poverty alleviation, overseas Filipino workers and housing.

"[Andres] said the Vice President believe[d] himself to be very popular with the 'masa,' as indeed public opinion polls have confirmed," the report said.

It said that De Castro's "key backers among the elite" were members of the Lopez clan, owner of the ABS-CBN media network.

"De Castro relies on his still active network of ABS-CBN officials extensively, and is not afraid to call senior ABS-CBN members via cell phone on a moment's notice to ask questions about news coverage and foreign affairs," it said.

Mar and Ping

The report said that as early as May, Roxas had "charted his political career toward the presidency."

It noted that Roxas had "high name recall" as a grandson of the first President of the republic, Manuel Roxas, and "a strong background in economics and sufficient private wealth to fund a massive national campaign, as he did in [the] 2004 [senatorial election]."

"Heightening his popularity is his relationship with Korina Sanchez, a fashionable Manila media star," it added.

But a statement issued by Roxas' office said he had not engaged in any discussion with any US Embassy official regarding his political plans in the next five years.

The report described Lacson as "cagey" and "still clearly want[ing] to be President."

"His strict law-and-order presidential campaign earned him a third-place finish in the May 2004 election. His campaign won him many admirers including in the wealthy Chinese-Filipino community, historically victimized by kidnapping and other crimes," it said.

Lacson confirmed to the INQUIRER that he had been in constant touch with embassy officials: "We have conversations. Sometimes, we have friendly banter. Other times, we talk about more serious topics."

He said he did not know where the embassy officials based their conclusion that he still wanted to be president as early as May, when the political crisis, including the issue of who would replace Ms Arroyo, had yet to rage.

"I don't know where they got that. They talk to many people," Lacson said.

Fernando et al.

The report said MMDA Chair Fernando told an embassy official in an April 25 conversation that he was "interested in the presidency."

"In a recent national survey by a local firm, Fernando ranked as President Arroyo's most popular Cabinet member," it said.

It also said Fernando had garnered "popular segments of Manila's underprivileged urban population, primarily for his unorthodox but effective methods for putting some order to a chaotic Metro Manila."

According to the report, Villar "paints himself as an independent thinker and a nationalist who could resist 'foreign' influence."

"This nationalist posturing, along with multiple Manila strip mall business interests, placed Villar on the opposite side of some [Philippine government] enforcement efforts involving the intellectual property rights law and pitted him against [US government] interests in the past," it said.

The report said the "political tandem" of Villar and his "popular wife," Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, had worked to "support his political ambitions."

"Notably, the Villars have a penchant for smooth political marketing, and have the useful distinction of being the richest couple in Congress," it said.

Gordon, who pushed for the retention of the US bases in 1991 when he was mayor of Olongapo City, was described in the report as having "worked closely" with embassy officials "in the past."

It said he used his "promotional flare (flair)" to win a Senate seat in 2004.

Poe's Susan

The report mentioned Susan Roces, widow of 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., but said her "public appeal," while "strong," was "still more potential than real."

But it added: "Her professed desire to help the 'masa' and to ensure that her husband's 'legacy' continues may drive her eventually into a more active political life, as may her clear contempt" for Ms Arroyo.

The report also said the sons of ousted President Joseph Estrada could also make a stab at the presidency under certain circumstances.

It said the "enduring affection of the 'masa' for the Estrada clan" could make Sen. Jinggoy Estrada a potential leader "regardless of the outcome of his father's ongoing trial" for plunder and his own case.

It also said San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito appeared to be "in line to inherit the political mantle of his father."

The report concluded: "Additional biographic detail about these and hundreds of other leaders of the Philippine polity can be found in the biographic portal by visiting Embassy Manila's classified SIPRNET website. Please follow the link below: RICCIARDONE."

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone was the latest chief of mission appointed to the Philippines.

That's description of Bush, not De Castro, says Recto

From page A1

Mussomeli could have been describing US President George W. Bush in his July 16 report portraying Philippine Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro as inept in domestic and foreign policy issues.

Recto said Mussomeli's report—which stated that the Philippines would be worse off under the former broadcaster in the event that President Macapagal-Arroyo is compelled to step down—was an "unfair assessment of the man."

"The American who wrote it was probably describing his commander in chief, George W. Bush. The word 'inexperienced' fits Bush [more] than Kabayan," Recto said.

The senator said there was no need to disparage De Castro because he had repeatedly said he was "not after GMA's seat."

Recto belongs to the Senate's "Wednesday Group," along with Senators Joker Arroyo and Manuel Villar. De Castro was also a member of the group when he was a senator, and still attends its meetings.

Recto derided the US intelligence reports on the Philippines, saying these were not oracles and those who prepared them were not infallible.

"We should stop seeing them as Nostradamuses who can see into the future. Their clairvoyant powers are suspect. The card readers in Plaza Miranda are probably better," he said, adding that for all its resources, US intelligence was wrong when it said the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein was stockpiling nuclear weapons.

'Only Mussomeli'

De Castro himself said the five-page intelligence report on the Philippines, specifically on his fitness as a potential president, was "baseless and incorrect."

"I don't think the US government is trying to destroy me and put me in a bad light," an irked De Castro told the INQUIRER. "It's only Mussomeli, [and] Mussomeli is not the US government. Maybe he wanted to impress his bosses in Washington … The question is, did the US government believe him and his report?"

De Castro denied having a biography of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani on his desk, as mentioned in the report, and said he had the biography of former US President Bill Clinton, which he had read halfway.

He stressed that he had not talked with Mussomeli or any agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation about Philippine politics, foreign policy and economic issues or other serious concerns.

De Castro said Mussomeli had tried to arrange a farewell call before the latter's transfer to Cambodia as US ambassador but that there was a problem in their respective schedules.

But he recalled having discussed the peace and order situation in Mindanao as well as the US occupation of Iraq with the new US charge d'affaires, Darryl Johnson, in his office "two or three weeks ago" when the latter made a courtesy call.

He said Johnson had asked too many "sensitive questions," prompting him to also do the same.

"I asked him, when are you going to leave Iraq?" De Castro said, noting that this could have offended the American.

'National disaster'

But according to former Sen. Loren Legarda, the assessment of De Castro's fitness as successor to Ms Arroyo is "accurate."

Legarda, De Castro's rival in the May 2004 vice presidential race, told the INQUIRER that what was contained in the US report was actually the "heart and soul" of her electoral protest against him.

She said the protest had not taken off because the Presidential Electoral Tribunal had yet to order the transfer of the questioned ballot boxes and election returns from Congress.

Said Legarda: "The US report is a factual assessment … It's an official report, and it's routine for [US officers] to file a report about the country they are in. I fully agree with it, particularly the part about Noli. He is indeed a security risk and national disaster. If you are incompetent for the job, when there are compelling and urgent issues to be addressed, the system will be faultier…

"If you have a questionable mandate, how can you govern? That's a risk. So the report merely validated what I've been [saying] all along—that De Castro is not fit for the job."

RP & Uncle Sam

De Castro said it was the President's job to manage foreign affairs although he pointed out that he was also taking part in crafting policy as a member of the Cabinet and the National Security Council.

He said that while the Philippines valued its relations with the United States, the latter should not be allowed to interfere in domestic affairs.

"It's not true that a Philippine president should be beholden to Uncle Sam. What he/she needs is the blessing of the Filipino people," he said, adding:

"Look at [former Prime Minister] Mahathir [Mohamad] of Malaysia. Mahathir succeeded in preventing the US from interfering in his country's affairs. We should also do that here." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Blanche S. Rivera*

Palace to the rescue

MALACAÑANG WAS QUICK TO take up the cudgels for Vice president Noli de Castro, with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita saying he believed the Vice President when the latter denied having told US agents that there was circumstantial evidence to link Ms Arroyo to election fraud in 2004.

"I believe … De Castro. He's a member of the national team," Ermita told reporters when asked to comment on the Mussomeli report.

He added that De Castro continued to do the jobs assigned to him by the President.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's trouble-shooter and the ruling Lakas' campaign spokesperson in 2004, said the US assessment of De Castro was more intriguing than credible.

"I feel it's a source of intrigue more than an official report," he said at a press conference.

Defensor also rebutted De Castro's supposed statement on Ms Arroyo and election fraud: "I was one of the closest to the Vice President during the campaign, and never did such utterances come from him … I have full confidence in [his] character and capability."

Defensor also said De Castro was a proven loyal ally of Ms Arroyo's who did not abandon her even when it could have benefited him.

"Noli is not an ambitious, opportunistic person. Even during the crisis, he was there … He's not just loyal; he knows that even if he takes over, the crisis, the political mudslinging, will not stop," Defensor said.

Abu Sayyaf recruiting Christians – AFP

AL-QAIDA-LINKED ABU SAYYAF militants have recruited about 100 mostly Christian men from two Mindanao provinces since July, offering them money to help stage attacks, according to a military report.

The recruits were to be used for unspecified "sabotage operations" in Zamboanga City, said the military intelligence report seen by reporters yesterday.

Predominantly Christian Zamboanga, the seat of the military's Southern Command and venue of ongoing US antiterrorism exercises, has come under deadly bomb attacks by the Abu Sayyaf in recent years.

Top recruiters

At least two of the group's leaders wanted by the US government, Abu Sulaiman and Albader Parad, led the recruitment of the men from Zamboanga and the nearby Basilan, offering them P10,000 to P30,000, said the report, without specifying if the amounts were one-time or monthly payments.

Abu Sayyaf guerrillas used to be based in Basilan until US-backed offensives three years ago forced them to flee to nearby islands and provinces. A recent three-month massive military manhunt, backed at times by US surveillance aircraft, failed to nab the group's chieftain, Khaddafy Janjalani, and his men in Maguindanao.

Aside from Zamboanga and Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf also has been trying to recruit members in Maguindanao and Jolo, the report said.

In early 2000, the group's strength reached more than 1,000 when its various factions staged several high-profile kidnappings for ransom in Mindanao. But US-backed offensives have whittled it down to more than 400, military officials say.

Acts of banditry

The group, which is on a US list of terrorist organizations, has been blamed for many acts of banditry and attacks, including the bombing of an inter-island ferry that killed 116 last year in the country's worst terrorist attack.

Janjalani has been trying to wean the group away from banditry, make it more religious-oriented and lethal by seeking bomb-making and religious training for his members and recruits from Indonesian militants belonging to Jemaah Islamiyah, according to government security reports.

The Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah, believed to be al-Qaida's major ally in Southeast Asia, has been blamed for most bombings in the region.

Janjalani is believed to be on the run with a number of alleged Jemaah Islamiyah militants, including Pitono, also known as Dulmatin, and Umar Patek in Maguindanao, the reports said.

The two Indonesians, who have reportedly provided religious and bomb-making training to Filipino and Indonesian militants, are wanted by the Indonesian government for their alleged role in the 2002 Bali nightclub attacks that killed 202 people. *AP*

Saguisag trying to pull fast one, says prosecutor

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANbayan Special Division yesterday clarified that former President Joseph Estrada would not be placed under "city arrest" because his lawyers have not filed a formal motion to that effect.

The Special Division issued the clarification after government lawyers led by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio reiterated the prosecution's objection to Estrada's petition for bail and to a defense plea for subpoena wherein it discussed plans to place Estrada under city arrest.

Villa-Ignacio accused the defense panel of being unprofessional and deceitful because of its "attempt to surreptitiously insert into the records statements and arguments that should otherwise be covered by a separate pleading or motion."

He explained that all he knew was that Estrada's lead counsel, Rene Saguisag, was asking for subpoena but he found out that the plea also argued and prayed for city arrest for Estrada.

"Such move on the part of Saguisag was unfair, unprofessional, dishonest and deceptive practice of inserting arguments and prayers for substantive remedies in seemingly innocuous pleading or papers like a request for subpoena," Villa-Ignacio said.

The head of the prosecution panel said that it would have been better if the defense lawyer filed a motion supplementing his earlier petition asking for the grant of bail to Estrada, who is now detained in his rest-house in Tanay, Rizal.

Saguisag, in response, explained that city arrest was a mere suggestion that the court may include in the conditions it may set in case it grants their motion for bail. He also took exception to Villa-Ignacio's allusions that he was unprofessional and does engage in a deceitful practice, saying, "We were never treated less unkindly as the way the special prosecutor treats us."

The heated verbal exchange prompted presiding Justice Teresita de Castro to admonish Villa-Ignacio for his accusations against the defense that tend to prolong the discussion.

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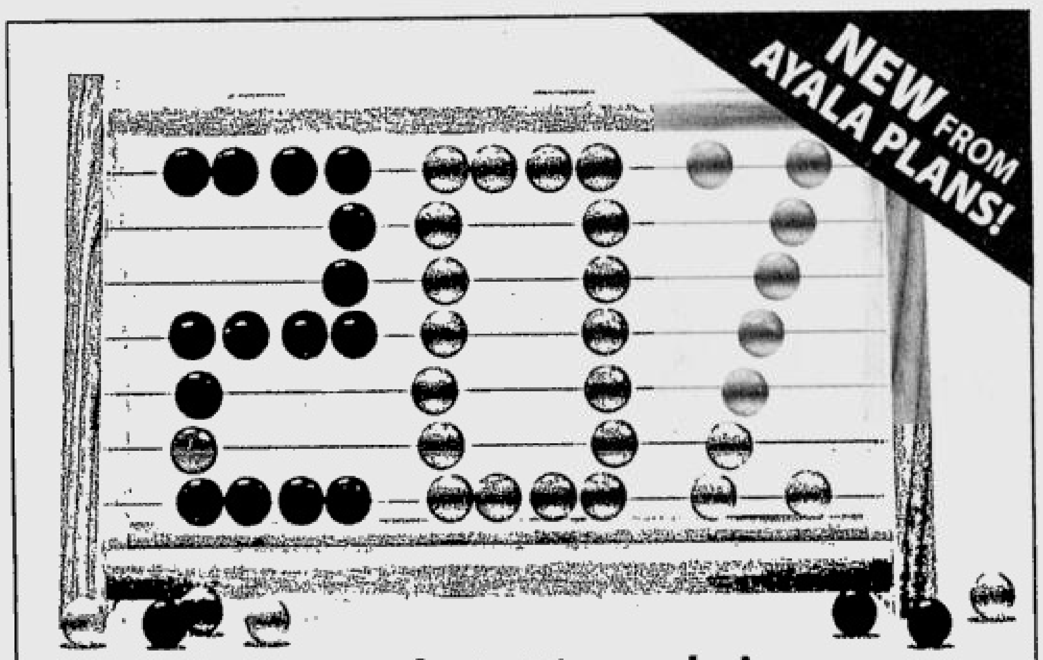

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN warns of '3rd generation' terrorists

UNITED NATIONS—AL-QAIDA HAS SPAWNED A so-called "third generation" of followers skilled in urban warfare and suicide bombings and UN sanctions need to be updated to keep up with the changing tactics, a report warned Tuesday.

The committee monitoring sanctions against the terror network and the Taliban said the arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze have been effective but "the combination of sanctions has still not achieved its full potential."

"Al-Qaida continues to evolve and adapt to the pressures and opportunities of the world around it and the threat of a significant attack remains real in all areas," the group said in a report to the UN Security Council.

"At the same time, there has been a revival of the threat from the Taliban," it said, adding that recent evidence suggests the remnants of Afghanistan's ousted hard-line regime have access to more money.

The report, dated Sept. 9 and containing recommendations to be considered by the UN Security Council, was released as Afghanistan faced the fiercest fighting since US-led forces invaded in late 2001, with more than 1,200 people killed in the six months leading up to Sunday's historic legislative elections.

Sanctions currently require all 191 UN member states to impose a travel ban and arms embargo against Afghanistan's former Taliban leaders, Osama bin Laden and his terror network, those "associated with" them and to freeze their financial assets.

The committee recommended more measures to clamp down on terror financing and said the Security Council should consider broadening the arms embargo to keep the groups from obtaining military-quality materials or using chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

It said al-Qaida is seeking to stage more massive attacks to gain media exposure and an effective embargo would force militants to use less efficient equipment or risk discovery trying to procure more effective means.

"Terrorist tactics have evolved over the past several years and the (monitoring) team believes the arms embargo should change with the times," the report said.

It said no state had reported an attempt to breach the arms embargo but it noted implementation often was complicated in some post-conflict areas, such as in Somalia and Afghanistan.

The committee's report said al-Qaida's message remains the same but its operations have expanded to comprise three groups—Bin Laden and his deputies, fighters who trained in Afghanistan and new recruits who form cells locally.

It described the new recruits as a third "new and growing generation of supporters who may never have left their countries of residence but have embraced the core elements of the al-Qaida message."

"These cells are emerging as the main threat posed by al-Qaida terrorism today," the report said. "They are bound to the al-Qaida leadership by an overall unity of purpose but remain independent, anonymous and largely invisible until they strike."

They often receive training from "the veterans of Afghanistan or other areas of conflict" or travel to Iraq to gain skills in urban warfare, bombmaking, assassination and suicide attacks, then return home where they pose an increased threat.

The report came after the Security Council adopted a resolution expanding the sanctions to spell out who is included among associates of al-Qaida and the Taliban. *AP*

Hurricane Rita strengthens, heads for Texas

MIAMI—AFTER LASHING THE Florida Keys, Hurricane Rita gained power on Wednesday and headed across the Gulf of Mexico on a course that could take it to Texas and dump more rain on Katrina-battered Louisiana.

Rita was upgraded to a Category 3 storm and the National Hurricane Center said it probably would develop into a Category 4 on Wednesday, the same classification as Hurricane Katrina, which devastated parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama last month.

Rita had sustained winds of 185-kph on Wednesday as it headed into the Gulf. The storm hit the Florida Keys but did not get close enough to reach the vulnerable chain of islands with its most destructive forces.

Rita's most likely future track would take it to Texas by the end of the week, raising fears the sprawling storm could bring heavy rains to flooded New Orleans and threaten the recovery of oil production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

With Rita looming, Louisiana declared a state of emergency and New Orleans, 80 percent of which was flooded when Katrina shattered its protective levees, was taking no chances. Mayor Ray Nagin said two busloads of people had been evacuated already and 500 other buses were ready to roll.

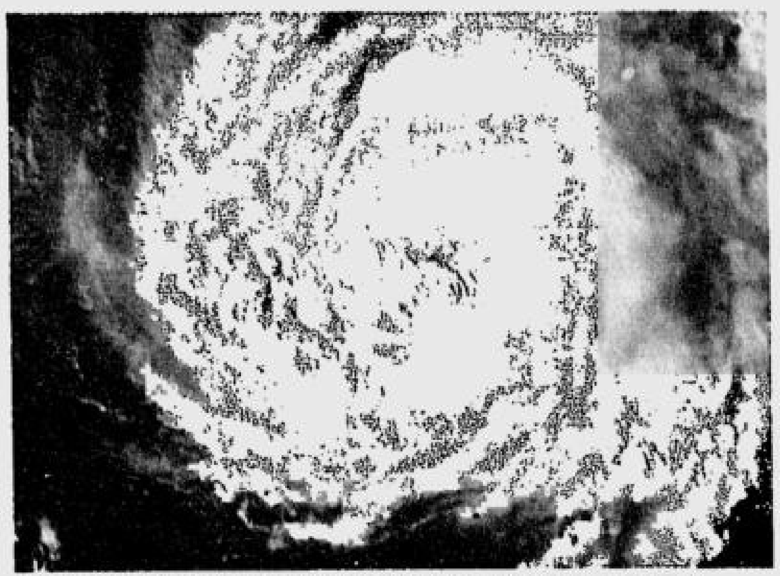
"We're a lot smarter this time around," he said. "We've learned a lot of hard lessons." With grim news footage of Katrina's assault still fresh in their minds, officials along the Texas Gulf Coast prepared for Rita. An evacuation was ordered for Galveston and several schools in the region planned to cancel classes.

About 1,100 Hurricane Katrina evacuees still in Houston's two mass shelters faced another evacuation as the city found itself in Rita's possible path. They were being sent to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Rita's center was about 235 km west of Key West, Florida, at 2 a.m. EDT (0600 GMT). The hurricane was headed west into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico at about 22 kph, the US National Hurricane Center said.

The hurricane center said Rita was likely to become a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale—with sustained winds above 210 kph—by Wednesday night.

"The conditions over the central Gulf are much like they were for Katrina," hurricane center deputy director Ed Rappaport told CNN. *Reuters*



NATIONAL Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite image of Hurricane Rita taken at 2045 GMT on Sept. 20. REUTERS

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WORLDBRIEFS

German coalition talks

BERLIN—Germany's conservatives strengthened the hand of their leader Angela Merkel on Tuesday as she prepared for tough coalition talks aimed at breaking a crippling post-election political deadlock. Members of her Christian Democrats (CDU) and their sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), voted by a 98.6 percent margin to reappoint her head of their parliamentary group, well above scores she had received in prior years. To keep alive her hopes of becoming Germany's first woman chancellor, Merkel has two options. She must either persuade the Social Democrats to drop its demands that Gerhard Schroeder continue to run Germany, or get the environmentalist Greens to join her conservatives in an alliance with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), her preferred partners. *Reuters*

Nazi hunter dies

VIENNA—Simon Wiesenthal, who waged an untiring campaign to track down Nazi war criminals and keep alive the memory of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, died on Tuesday aged 96. Wiesenthal, a Jew and former concentration camp inmate, was best known for helping with the discovery in Argentina of Adolf Eichmann, the man Adolf Hitler entrusted with carrying out the Nazi genocide program against the Jews. The man who helped trace some 1,100 Nazis from his small, file-crammed Vienna office, died early on Tuesday in his apartment, the Jewish Community of Vienna said. Wiesenthal will be buried in Israel. *Reuters*

Iran nuke program

TEHRAN—Iran on Tuesday issued its toughest warning yet in response to Western pressure over its nuclear program, threatening to limit UN inspections, resume ultra-sensitive fuel work and saying it could even be forced to quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Islamic republic's top nuclear negotiator, hardliner Ali Larijani, also said Tehran would base its business dealings with individual countries—especially in the oil sector—on whose side they took in the dispute. He was speaking as Britain, France and Germany lobbied members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to haul Iran before the UN Security Council over "breaches" of international atomic safeguards. *AFP*

Nigerian oil wells

LAGOS—Nigerian militants took to the streets of the city of Port Harcourt on Tuesday and threatened to destroy oil wells across the Niger Delta after the leader of a separatist militia was detained by police. Alhaji Mujahid Dokubo Asari, leader of the illegal Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF), was arrested and flown to the capital for questioning, his second-in-command and witnesses said. "We've given them an ultimatum of 24 hours. If they do not release him within 24 hours, we'll bomb oil installations in our area, the Niger Delta area," Asari's deputy Alali Horsefall told AFP by telephone from Port Harcourt. *AFP*

Sharon won't quit Likud

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said on Tuesday he would fight to retain the leadership of his right-wing Likud party despite dissent spurred by the withdrawal from Gaza. The Israeli leader, who recently returned from a trip to the United Nations where he was praised for the pullout, did not say whether he would quit the party if he loses and lead a new faction to run in a national ballot next year. "I plan to ... run (in a vote to head) the Likud, win and lead the Likud in elections, which will be held on schedule, in order to keep the Likud in power," Israeli media quoted Sharon as telling members of his party at his office in Jerusalem. *Reuters*

Indonesia faces bird flu epidemic, says minister

JAKARTA—INDONESIA'S HEALTH MInister on Wednesday warned the country was facing a bird flu epidemic as another possible victim died after showing signs of infection.

With four Indonesian deaths already confirmed in two months and mounting international concern that bird flu could mutate into a major killer of humans, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari warned of more infections ahead.

"This can be classified as an epidemic and most definitely there will be others as long as we are unable to positively identify the sources," Supari told reporters.

A strain of bird flu known as H5N1 has killed 63 people in Southeast Asia since 2003, the majority of them in Vietnam. Health experts say a major and quick-spreading pandemic internationally could kill millions.

The World Health Organization's biggest fear is that H5N1 may mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious as well as lethal.

"It's obvious that a pandemic will occur, all the conditions are in place," WHO director general Lee Jong-Wook said on Monday. "The problem now is time." A team of US officials are in Indonesia to see how they can help Indonesia's efforts to curb bird flu, US Embassy spokesperson Max Kwak said. The five-person team from the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies arrived Sunday and will leave Saturday as part of a regional fact-finding mission.

Supari said Indonesia will this week receive 9,000 more Tamiflu tablets to supplement the 3,000 already available. The WHO recommends stockpiling of Tamiflu, an antiviral medication which can stop flu if given quickly when symptoms develop.

The Indonesian government on Monday gave bird flu "extraordinary incident" priority status to focus attention on the outbreak in the archipelago nation.

"I do not want to wait for more deaths to take place," the health minister explained.

But The Jakarta Post said in an editorial that it remains to be seen how the "extraordinary" situation is dealt with on the ground.

The newspaper called for public information campaigns and questioned whether the government did enough to prevent the virus from taking hold when it first appeared two years ago. *AFP*

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North Korea accuses US of plotting nuclear attack

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA ON Wednesday accused the United States of intending to disarm the communist country and then "crush it to death with nuclear weapons"—two days after a landmark disarmament agreement that was expected to ease tensions.

North Korea pledged to give up its nuclear weapons program in return for economic aid and security assurances at six-nation talks in Beijing on Monday—the first breakthrough in more than two years of negotiations.

However, the country's rhetoric since then has cast doubts on its commitment to the agreement and underscored its unpredictability, though none of its negotiating partners say they expect a breakdown in the disarmament talks, scheduled to continue in November.

"The ulterior intention of the United States talking about resolving the nuclear issue under the signboard of the six-party talks is as clear as daylight," the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried in the Korean language by the official Korean Central News Agency.

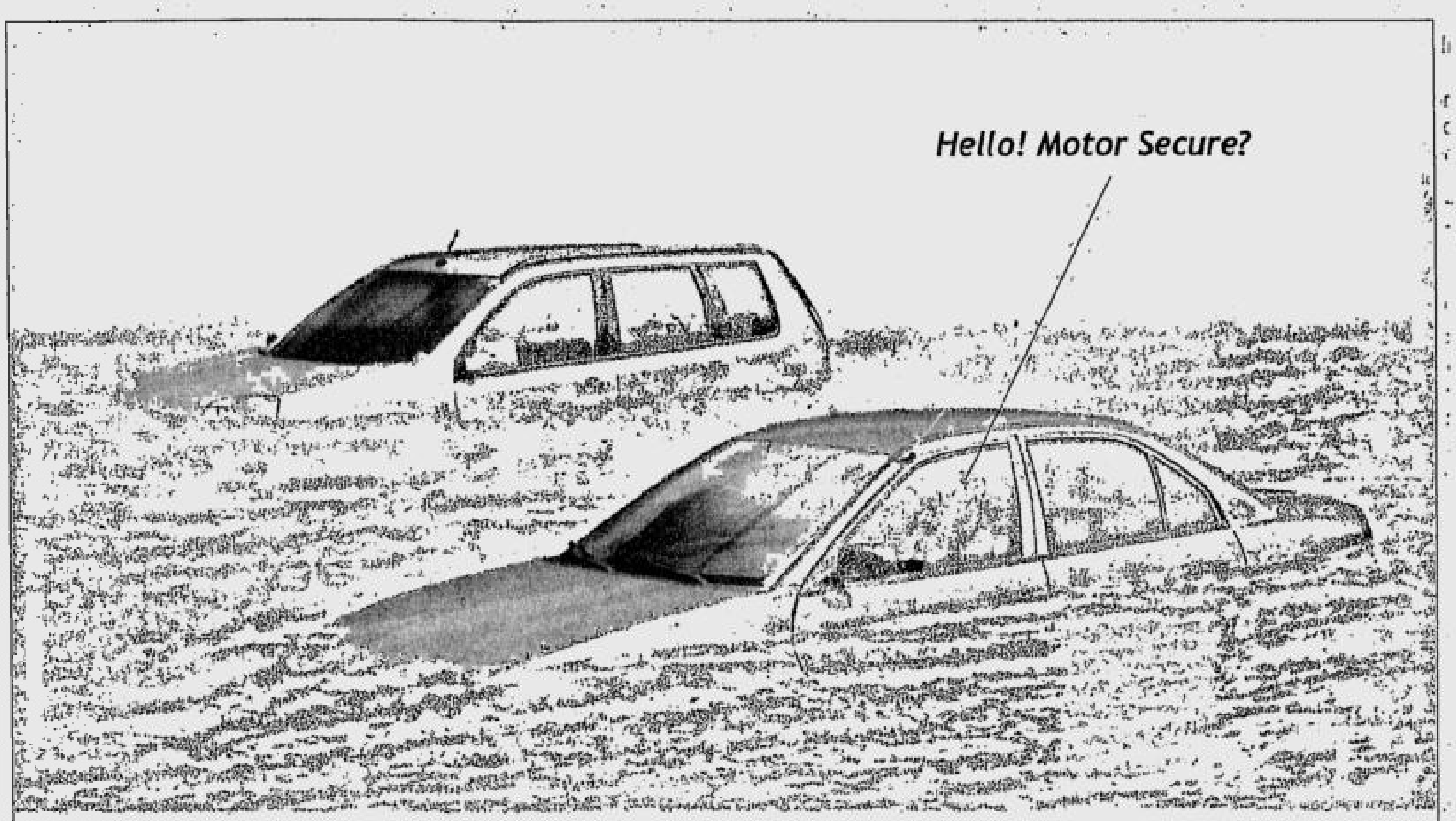
"In a word, it intends to disarm and crush us to death with nuclear weapons," the commentary said.

Washington has repeatedly denied North Korean allegations that it is planning an attack.

Just hours after this week's agreement among the two Koreas, United States, China, Japan and Russia, North Korea threw its pledge into question Tuesday when it said it wouldn't dismantle its nuclear weapons program unless Washington agrees to supply light-water reactors for civilian power—a condition Washington already had rejected.

South Korea, which has pursued closer economic and political contacts with the rival North in recent years, interpreted the North's latest demand as a negotiating tactic.

"It seems (North Korea) has started laying the groundwork in advance of the next round of negotiations," South Korean envoy Song Min-soon said, according to Yonhap news agency. *AP*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Koizumi reelected Japan's PM

KOIZUMI

TOKYO—A SPECIAL SESSION OF JAPAN'S parliament reelected Junichiro Koizumi as prime minister on Wednesday, clearing the way for him to press on with a reform program including privatization of the postal system after his party's landslide election victory this month.

Koizumi, who took office in April 2001, was chosen by members of the 480-seat lower house, where his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) took a commanding 296 seats in the Sept. 11 general election, ensuring he would remain prime minister.

Koizumi called the election after rebels in his own party voted with the opposition in the upper house to kill bills to privatize Japan Post, a financial services giant with $3 trillion in assets.

He had cast the election as a referendum on postal privatization, which he considers the core of his reform agenda.

"I have been promoting structural reform until now, and I want to put it on a solid track," Koizumi told a news conference after the lower house voted for him to remain prime minister.

"I want to enact the postal bills in this special session of parliament," he added.

Ahead of the vote, Koizumi's cabinet tendered their resignations, but all were expected to be reappointed later in the day.

Koizumi, who has said he has no plans to stay on once his tenure as party president expires next September, has said he will quickly re-submit the postal bills and he is expected to reshuffle the cabinet once they are passed.

The bills are expected to be voted on in October and look certain to get through. Parliament will sit until Nov. 1.

The landslide win on Sept. 11 gave the LDP, which has governed Japan for most of the last half century, its first majority in an election in 15 years. *Reuters*

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Impertinence

EDITORIAL

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO SAYS HE HAS no recollection of any meeting with former US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli where they discussed at some length politics or any other subject matter. As far as he can recall, De Castro says, he only had three "casual meetings" with the American diplomat, all of them during official functions where they got to exchange little more than pleasantries. Thus, the Vice President adds, he could not have confided to Mussomeli that there was "circumstantial evidence" of President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in election fraud, as the US official reported in a document that is on file with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. "I don't even remember his face."

Of course, De Castro has every reason to plead amnesia not only with regard to how Mussomeli looked but more so about that embarrassing, if not damaging, piece of information about election cheating. Having declared himself firmly on the side of the President, he is not supposed to provide more ammunition to the opposition which has been trying to force Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang.

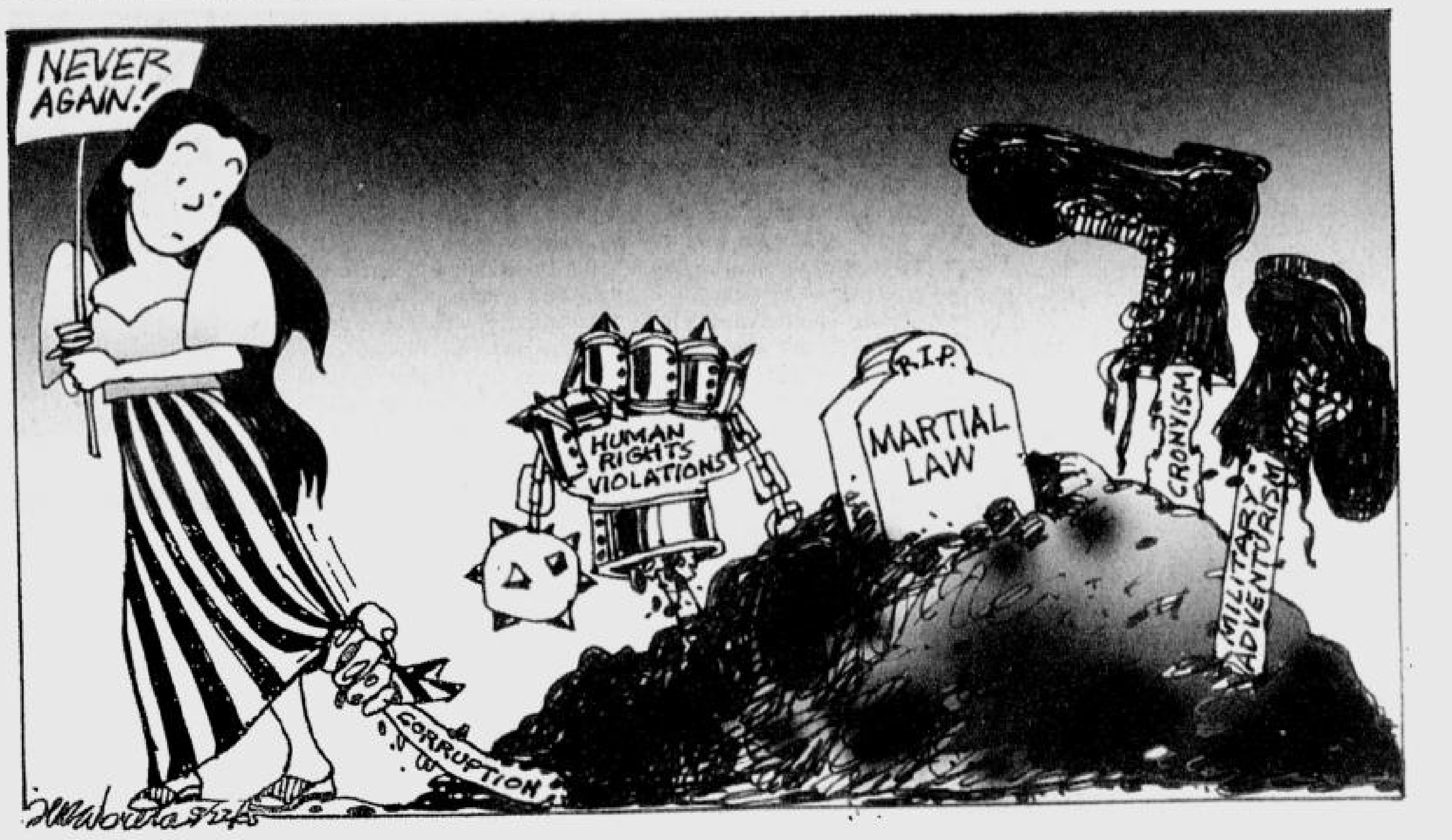
But if that meeting with US officials did indeed take place, then the Vice President has even more reason to remember it well. In the report, one of several documents believed to have been downloaded from FBI files and sent to some Filipino opposition leaders, Mussomeli and other US government agents barely try to hide their contempt for De Castro. When the US officials asked him about US-RP military cooperation, according to the report, De Castro replied that he "supported the global war on terrorism.... On Iraq, however, he said he didn't understand 'what was behind it.'" When he was asked about his legislative priorities, the report said, "he searched for words" and his chief of staff had to come to his rescue by pointing out that the Vice President's "policy interest [is] anything that would benefit the masses," adding parenthetically "especially the TV-watching, vote-rich masses." The report went on to point out that when the US officials inquired about the biography of Rudy Giuliani on his desk, De Castro said it had been given to him as a gift and "he hadn't read it."

But what other US officials apparently found most odd and revealing was the Vice President's complaint about the imbalance in RP-US trade relations. The report quoted him as saying that the Philippines was "your Number One ally and our President your Number One fan," but other countries seemed to be "getting more."

Their verdict: "There is no indication De Castro has much knowledge or interest in foreign policy issues." An unidentified State Department official concluded: "If this is what De Castro can offer on domestic and foreign policy issues, then the opposition should rethink [its] position as protracted uncertainties will deepen and increasingly harm the current political and economic situation if De Castro succeeds [Ms Arroyo]." Simply put, De Castro was weighed and found wanting by officials of the US Embassy, the State Department and who knows what other US government agency.

But if De Castro is the bumbling ignoramus US officials painted him to be, he was a greater fool for giving them the opportunity to interrogate him like he were applying for a job. That's very clear from the questions these officials peppered him with. If he were conscious of his dignity as a leader of an independent country, he would have shown them the door the moment they started probing his mind. What was he doing, accommodating their impertinence and arrogance? Did he think he needed US approval to succeed to the presidency in the event that Ms Arroyo was booted out of office?

The Vice President owes his office to the Filipino voters who elected him. According to the Constitution, he assumes the highest office the moment the President can no longer discharge her functions. And he needs no clearance from anyone, least of all a foreign power, to do so. He should have reminded his American interrogators about this instead of submitting meekly to their questioning. Then he would have spared himself the humiliation of being ridiculed and treated with extreme condescension. If De Castro's election was a mistake, Filipinos will have to live with that mistake. No American official should presume to undo it.



Crammed mail boxes

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

PANFILO LACSON AS MALE "MATA HARI," book shortages in provincial libraries, Cebu as example of how not to succeed and Korean-style bike lanes cram our mail boxes these days.

From San Mateo in California, Antonio Navales asks: "Why are we surprised at the reaction to the Federal Bureau of Investigation charges that three Philippine officials received classified reports filched by an employee, who passed them on to Senator Lacson's protégé, Michael Ray Aquino, who is a fugitive from murder charges?

"Even before the federal court unsealed the indictment, five officials—two more than the FBI pinpointed—had denied having done anything wrong. Aside from Lacson, former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rep. Roilo Golez and ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad "stood up to be recognized."

That's par for the course in our country where the 10 Commandments have been watered down into "10 Recommendations." And far too many of our elite instead live by the 11th to 13th commandments.

The 11th Commandment decrees: "Thou shalt deny everything." And the 12th adds: "Thou shalt not resign." And the 13th sums up the other two: "Thou shalt not get caught." The next few days will see who got nailed.

From Calasiao, Pangasinan, teacher Agnes Bacugan writes: "Re the column 'The Heroes We Never Were'—I desire to be a hero as well, that's to save one or two souls from ignorance.

"At the Comprehensive National High School, I teach English. As library resource center custodian, I promote reading among my students. But a significant number of high school students can't even read! This is a disheartening reality.

"Enticing them to visit the library is difficult. I don't blame them. Like other schools, our library has a very slim collection of paperbacks and reference books.

"Could your INQUIRER readers send one book each to Calasiao with a personal dedication? Perhaps, it's not too much to ask for. It's almost Christmas anyway."

This "promdi" dreams of promoting a reading culture. That may not be grand, as ambitions go in this country. But it is significant.

From Hong Kong, author Isabel Escoda (who also writes for INQUIRER) reacts: "I forwarded Pangasinan's Agnes Bacugan's appeal to Dan and Nancy Harrington in California.

"They've been sending container loads of books for over 20 years now, even to Jolo. They often travel around the islands. Dan was once a Subic naval pilot. A former schoolteacher, Nancy gathers books mainly on math, history, science, English and literature when California schools change them every few years. That saves still-good books from being dumped into local landfills.

"Manila's given them some awards for their work. But much of it is unacknowledged and unappreciated. Their pilot schools in Paco and Dumaguete are most impressive."

Jobert Alcoseba from General Santos comments: "Your column rightly points out that Cebu City offers examples of how not to succeed.

"Mayor Tomas Osmeña's 'Crown Jewel'—the 295-hectare South Reclamation Project—is trapped in a costly desalination box to provide water. But if the column factored in the consequences of costly water in SRP, on bloated P6.3-billion loan, the quagmire would have been seen more clearly."

"SRP's problem is not the delay in the release of land titles, due to Talisay City claims for a 54-hectare slice. It will be water. If taps are dry, or water is too costly, investors [are going to] bolt," Investments Promotion Center's Joel Mari Yu cautions.

Cebu is water-short. To provide water for SRP, Osmeña must turn to desalination—an energy-intensive process. Even when oil was cheaper, desalinated water cost 10 times more than water piped from conventional springs.

But today, oil costs $70 a barrel. There are no prospects for early relief. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries warns that bottlenecks in refining capacity will keep those prices high, even if they pump more.

Those hard facts scuttle Osmeña's claim that cash would roll in, once the titles are delivered. They won't. Not until the mayor solves the water problem.

Annual yen loan payments now total P600 million. That's 25 centavos out of every peso in city hall's budget. Among all local governments, Cebu City is strapped with the biggest liability, the Commission on Audit notes. Osmeña strapped Cebuanos with a per capita repayment tax burden twice that of nation's—no mean feat.

That will stretch out repayment headaches. That's why Osmeña talks of "a bargain sale" to ease the financial squeeze. But the bill will be picked up ultimately by the taxpayer.

"No city relishes being straight-jacketed into high-cost energy-intensive water systems," Sun Star Daily wrote three years back. "And that's where Cebu is headed for."

A telecom engineer in Seoul writes: "From the INQUIRER, I read about bike lanes that'll be put up in Metro Manila. We should learn how the Korean government spent tax money wisely in building their bike lanes.

"On the banks of Hangan River—which cut through Seoul—both sides have broad bike lanes. I bike through these lanes Sundays. Hundreds use them for roller blade skating, jogging and strolling, etc.

"There are public toilets: clean, supplied with soap, water, paper towels. Exercise areas and sport facilities abound. Before the MMDA starts building those bike lanes, they better visit the one here in Seoul."

* * *

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Heaven help us

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE IS ONE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN Marcos and GMA. Marcos brought out the best and worst in Filipinos, GMA has brought out only the worst in us.

Marcos, of course, was the first one to corrupt the country over and beyond the call of venality. There was corruption before martial law, to be sure. But at least the corrupt minded it when they were exposed by the Manila Times—Chino Roces' of course, not Dante Ang's; from pedestal to mud, what a fall—and the Free Press. Before martial law, to be called a *buwaya* was to be an endangered species at the polls. After martial law, to call Marcos' cronies so was to be an endangered species on earth.

But martial law also brought out the best in Filipinos. It drew out luminous idealism, enough for many youth to sacrifice their lives in the hills and for many opposition figures to spend time in jail rather than capitulate to tyranny. Pepe Diokno and Ninoy Aquino easily come to mind. The revolutionaries waged open guerrilla warfare, while more priests, nuns, businessmen, workers, and even government clerks did so clandestinely on the wings.

There is nothing of that today. If GMA has proven anything, it is the astonishing corruptibility of Filipinos in general. No sector of society has proved invulnerable. The real comparison is not between GMA and Marcos, it is between GMA and Hitler. The astonishing ease with which Hitler corrupted all sectors of society, including the most seemingly incorruptible ones, from the military to the aristocrats, from the civil servants to the industrialists, from the youth to the aged came from people thinking they could use the obscure soldier, who never rose beyond the rank of corporal, for their own ends. Alas, they never saw the ambition in his heart and the cunning in his brain.

The difference though is that Hitler was a skilled orator and drew people to him with an ardor. If GMA has a magnetic personality, only she knows about it. Well, maybe the few other people she has magnetized.

GMA has corrupted the Church by buying off its key people with Pagcor money. Why should the CBCP's top honchos want GMA out? They're getting gambling money to give to the poor, and they've always considered themselves poor.

GMA has corrupted the military. But that is not a surprise at all, it is the most corruptible of society's institutions, the generals being the first to fall to the call of greed.

GMA has corrupted the businessmen, though that, too, is not particularly surprising, profit being their driving force in life. It was business that warned shrilly about the threat FPJ represented.

GMA has corrupted Namfrel, the group that foiled the Comelec's machinations in the past, becoming, in Garci's words, now "sympathetic *na sa atin* Ma'am."

GMA has corrupted civil society: Until last July, Dinky Soliman was singing "If we hold on together."

GMA has corrupted Edsa: Until last July, too, Cory insisted on draping its mantle around GMA's shoulders.

GMA has corrupted the media, two of the biggest networks now censoring criticism of her or poking fun at her in their sitcoms.

GMA has corrupted the Left, many former activists now preferring to serve her rather than the people.

GMA has corrupted God himself, speaking freely of being put by Him where she is, without anyone, least of all Archbishop Fernando Capalla protesting, never mind the sacrilege, just the aesthetic outrage.

Everyone also thought they could use the timid politician, who was too scared to defy Erap, for their own ends. Alas, they never saw the ambition in her heart and the cunning in her brain.

The effects of the corruption are there for all to see. We have not just lowered standards, we have obliterated them completely. I used to think that there was something horrendously insulting about that poster I used to see along España enjoining Filipinos to become world-class by becoming caregivers. The poster showed a Filipina smiling serenely while wheeling an elderly white woman along. I used to ask: Have we lost our pride completely? But even that is preferable to what is happening today. Today, I have to ask: Have we lost our minds completely?

There are no rules, there are no morals, there are no ethics. Today, you have the national security adviser himself hiring an American firm to lobby the US Congress to directly intervene in Philippine affairs by funding an initiative to change the Constitution. You have congressmen openly being bought to kill an impeachment bid. You have public officials masquerading as journalists and journalists masquerading as public officials. There was a time when delicadeza, if not the law, compelled people in media to stop being people in media when they became public officials, or appointees. Now, no one can even spell the word delicadeza. Or law.

Lying has become an acceptable tool to get ahead. Saying "I am sorry" has become the standard template to excuse murder.

But the biggest sector GMA has corrupted is the public itself. The biggest thing GMA has corrupted is the minds of the Filipinos themselves. It shows itself in the willingness of an entire people to accept a lie. No, in the willingness of an entire people to live a lie. Everybody agrees that GMA did not win the elections. Yes, everybody, including the congressmen who voted to kill the impeachment, including the justice secretary who is determined to foment injustice, and the national security adviser who is determined to sabotage this country, including the cockroaches that infest my neighborhood. But not everybody wants to do anything about it. *Sige na lang*, let's move on, say the bishops.

Today, there is only one thing left we are not afraid of. We are not afraid to stoop lower and lower.

The rise of Chinese 'sea power'

COMMENTARY

Hideaki Kaneda

IN AN AGE OF MISSILES AND TERRORIST threats, many people think that "sea power" is a word and concept from the past. Not in China. Indeed, China is increasingly emphasizing its naval and maritime interests: economic development, territorial management, energy and food security as well as trade. A navy sufficient to promote such activities is being rapidly developed and purchased from abroad (mostly from Russia and, when possible, from the European Union).

Many of China's neighbors are alarmed. The United States Defense Department views China's goal as being to build a series of military and diplomatic strategic bases—a so-called "string of pearls"—along the major sea lanes, from the South China Sea to the oil rich Middle East.

China seeks not only to secure its energy supplies but also to achieve broader security goals. For example, the Gwadar military port, which China is constructing in southwest Pakistan, is strategically placed to guard the throat of the Persian Gulf, with electronic eavesdropping posts to monitor ships—including war ships—moving through the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea.

Similarly, China is building container port facilities at Chittagong in Bangladesh for its naval and merchant fleets; as well as more naval bases and electronic intelligence gathering facilities on islands owned by Myanmar in the Gulf of Bengal. Indeed, China's ties with Myanmar's military dictators look set to turn into a de facto military alliance. In nearby Thailand, China has invested $20 billion in a plan to build a canal across the Kra Isthmus to connect the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Siam, thereby providing an alternate oil import route that avoids the Strait of Malacca.

In the South China Sea, China is developing systems to allow large-scale deployment of naval and air force units by fortifying bases on Hai Nan Island and the southern Chinese coastal area. On the Spratly and Paracel islands—seized from Vietnam and the Philippines respectively—China is building port facilities to moor large surface ships and runways large enough to handle long-range bombers. In effect, China is in the process of building a group of literally unsinkable aircraft carriers in the middle of the South China Sea.

Why is China, usually considered a "continental power," engaging in this maritime expansion? China dominated Asia in terms of "sea power" until the 17th century. Indeed, during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Admiral Zheng He's "Great Navy" was the world's most powerful. But for the last three centuries, China has had no global maritime strategy; neither has it possessed—or sought to possess—naval forces capable of supporting such a strategy.

Ironically, China's current maritime strategy has its roots in the United States, the nation that China appears to perceive as its key strategic rival, namely in the "sea power" theory developed by Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan at the end of the 19th century. In "The Influence of Sea Power upon History," published in 1890, Mahan argued that maritime power and economic development were deeply intertwined. Only the ability to protect trade and project power by sea could assure the vitality of this nexus.

Mahan identified the conditions that determine "sea power": (1) geographical position and environment; (2) territorial capacity, specifically coastline; (3) population; (4) character of people attuned to maritime expeditions; and (5) character of government eager to embrace "sea power."

These conditions applied to the United States of Mahan's time, and they surely apply to China today. China is already the world's third largest trading nation and rapidly developing its port capacities to manage an ever-increasing volume of trade. Its ship tonnage (excluding fleets that sail under flags of convenience) is the fourth largest in the world. Rapid expansion of ship tonnage is part of China's current five-year program, and by 2010 its shipbuilding capabilities will likely rival those of Japan and Korea.

However, unlike the United States and Britain in the past, China today must turn to overseas bases rather than colonization to enhance its "sea power"—hence its "string of pearls." Still, China is transforming its coastal navy into an ocean-going navy at a pace far quicker than most experts reckoned possible. By 2010, China is expected to have 70 of the most modern surface vessels, several modern strategic nuclear submarines, and several tens of modernized attack submarines, exceeding the modern forces of both Taiwan's navy and even Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, at least in quantitative terms.

Moreover, China plans to improve and expand its capabilities for assault landing and joint logistical support, both of which used to be weak points. This will provide China with necessary capabilities to invade, should China's rulers wish, Japan's most remote islands, including the disputed Senkaku Islands, as well as Taiwan. If China's naval growth continues at its current pace, it may have the world's largest naval force by 2020.

All of Asia must wake up to the arrival of Chinese-style aggressive "sea power." Japan, in particular, must reformulate its national maritime strategy with this in mind. Japan, America and other traditional maritime countries must also once again treat "sea power" in Asia as a key component of their ability to defend their own national interests.

Project Syndicate

Hideaki Kaneda, retired vice admiral of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, is currently director of the Okazaki Institute.

Why isn't it tipping? (2)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I RECEIVED VARIED FEEDBACK VIA E-MAIL ON my Sept. 15 column, "Why isn't it tipping?" That piece was on Malcolm Gladwell's bestseller and page-turner, "The Tipping Point"; and on why the eagerly awaited or much-dreaded (depending on which side you are) tipping point that would lead to the Arroyo administration's fall was not happening. Gladwell's book presents events in history, real-life examples and studies that show how the tipping point phenomenon works.

I'm sharing portions of some letters:

From "Xcathedra":

"Social cybernetics is one specialized field of discipline that might give other interesting leads on why there still is a prevailing 'social feedback stasis' before and following the 'oust Arroyo' initiatives.

"In mathematics (fractals and Chaos Theory) and physics, that 'tipping' point is known as the advent of entropy/chaos. You might want to read James Gleick's book (it's old in today's standards, but still grippingly enlightening) titled 'Chaos.' You can have a whiff of an analytical framework for dissecting social change.

"I suspect the stasis has something to do (partly) with the current state of equilibrium of the 'system' (public reaction and feedback). To explain: For every introduction of a (change) variable that would induce disequilibrium (or 'chaos') leading to an adjustment or total change of a system, the adjusted or changed system will always emerge stronger than before (whether in the negative or positive sense).

"Having been exposed to several 'Edsa events' and propaganda of agitation, the usual recipe to induce the tipping point/entropy/chaos will not work. It has to have something more potent, something that can weaken the 'inured' (or stronger) new state of equilibrium of the ordinary people's collective response. The pond has endured too many small stones that another one will just create small ripples. You need a bigger stone or a new object that can induce the pond's waters to roil.

"Truth with a capital T matters. But the collective response system of ordinary people is in a stronger state of equilibrium in the different versions of truth—tired as they are of the long, wasteful string of investigations, accusations, and lawsuits (all of which led to more lies) that characterize how their leaders run the country."

From Ronald Cagape, IT professional:

"It, the bid to remove Pres. Arroyo, is not moving because it doesn't have all three elements in place.

"First, there are no people who fit the Law of the Few. Now it can be said that former President Aquino and Susan Roces actually have minimal impact. Whoever is backing them ought to notice that by now. With the passing of Cardinal Sin, the influence of the Catholic Church has diminished. The Church is currently being led by committee… Sadly, there is no one in the opposition who could proclaim himself a Connector, Maven or Salesman.

"Actually, there are people who fit the Law of the Few but they work for the President. Speaker De Venecia is a potent Connector and Salesman in political circles. So is former President Ramos. I'm sure, the Mavens in the presidential think-tank worked tirelessly to ensure the impeachment vote didn't go the other way. This is the team that has to be overcome if you want to tip the movement to the other side.

"Second, the Stickiness Factor in the movement is not compelling enough. All they have is 'Hello, Garci.' It doesn't evoke an image repugnant enough to move people to action. All I remember is a disgruntled former NBI man with personal grudges proclaiming he has the 'mother of all tapes.' He could be a Maven, if he could be called Maven, but he did not stand for anything. He was not an embodiment of principle, integrity or honor. He had no credibility…I couldn't even remember his name.

"If (they) want the President removed, they should find something despicable and make it sticky, such as the dancing Tessie Oreta-Aquino in Edsa 2. Now THAT was sticky. Or '*Tama na, sobra na*' of the original People Power movement. These sticky factors riled people enough that they vented their anger in the streets …Is cheating really all that bad? Which leads me to the last point.

"The Context has no Power. In an environment where everyone knows that all politicians cheat anyway, finding out your President cheated is not powerful enough to generate anger. So what if she cheated to be President? Every senator and congressman bidding to remove her also cheated…

"I don't see this tipping anytime soon."

From Ernie Adaya:

"Why isn't it tipping? The answer is very simple: 'Because (President Arroyo) is tipping' and tipping generously for survival. In the Philippines, politicians, the influence peddlers, etc. are always on the lookout for the tipping point, because, like the waiters and waitresses in restaurants, they know that at the tipping point, the 'tips' will start flowing generously.

"Gladwell fails to realize that in the Philippines, there is a fourth rule of the Tipping Point, that is the Power of the 'tip' or the 'Tipping' Factor."

From a hard-up reader named Jori, for bleeding hearts out there:

"ma'am, where can i possibly find the book you're referring to in your column… i found it interesting… *nabasa ko rin mga reviews about the book sa net. kaya lang baka di ko kaya ang price* (in the red kc ako sa ngayon). i'm only good at second-hand books right now. can i possibly borrow one from you? *sorry po… wala kc ako kilala mahiraman. thank you po.*"

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

The rule of law

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

YESTERDAY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO Ermita announced, "The rule of calibrated preemptive response is now in force, in lieu of maximum tolerance. The authorities will not stand aside while those with ill intent are herding a witting or unwitting mass of people and inciting them into actions that are inimical to public order and the peace of mind of the national community." The term "maximum tolerance" has always been an offensive one—it presumes that people wanting to hold protest rallies against the government may do so only because the authorities have granted them the favor of a permit to rally when, in truth, rallying is a right, a form of peaceably petitioning government for redress of grievances.

But a "calibrated preemptive response"—what is that? A systematic strategy to gradually increase the use of force even ahead of a rally; that is, to head off a rally by means calculated to hamper such efforts with a show of force. In other words, a deliberate, official policy of thwarting the rights of the people is in force.

I have publicly stated my opposition to protest rallies at this point in time, for many reasons. The main one is that rallies do not take into account how the landscape of Metro Manila has changed. Another reason is, with a society as divided between the "active" and "inactive" as we have now (I'm increasingly convinced that the majority are against the President, anyway), the inactive would be better convinced, if rallies didn't play into the hands of the administration. There is also the reason that times being hard as they are, a rally hampers the movement of people who simply can't afford to rally and who are the ones actually penalized by the rallies because it would take them longer travel time to reach destinations or because they get to their respective workplaces late, and so on.

Some readers gently chided me for such position. One pointed out that, first of all, rallying is now an integral part, an essential manifestation of democracy. Another reminded me that rallies serve another essential purpose, that is, to demonstrate on whose side the government really is: the people's or itself.

The price of democracy, then, is inconvenience, just as an essential attribute of democracy is the right to dissent. This includes my right to dissent (with some public officials) on the application of the Penal Code's provisions on sedition (which I consider a colonial relic, enacted during the American rule—that is, prior to the Commonwealth). Our country isn't alone. Other former colonies retain repressive colonial laws (former British colonies, for example, have internal security acts, dating back to British rule, that are useful in stifling dissent and opposition). This includes the right to demonstrate opposition to a government—any government—and the corresponding obligation of the government—any government—to uphold that right. Not tolerate. Not limit. Not thwart by brandishing the law. The state has the duty to vigorously protect and uphold that right.

What we have instead, is a state policy of using every means—the Penal Code with its colonial provisions, the various propaganda organs of the State, the massed batons and riot shields of the police, and even the rifles of the armed forces—to turn any assertion of the public's rights into what the government calls a sinister conspiracy to thwart the rule of law.

I am reminded of the comment a friend made as he watched, on TV, Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces confronted by rows of policemen with riot shields and clubs: "Ah, so that is the rule of law! Two widows requiring the mobilization of thousands of people armed to the teeth, and backed up by water cannon."

I wonder where the rule of law has gone, when a government that claims to have an unquestionable mandate from the people, would rather deny people of permits (read: their right) to rally. And then, the same government that claims to an iron-clad right to govern wonders why people opposed to it decide to rally in Makati. In the first place, Makati is as good a place as any to rally; and becomes the only place to rally when the officials of other cities refuse to issue permits for people to rally in public spaces, such as Rizal Park, the Liwasang Bonifacio and the Quezon Memorial Circle.

I possess certain biases which I continue to uphold unapologetically. The first is that those who benefited from People Power yesterday cannot deny it to anyone today. The second is that the targets of People Power yesterday cannot be the beneficiaries of People Power tomorrow (which may be one reason we don't have People Power today, only rallies). The third is that the opposition to the President is not only a Metro Manila phenomenon.

But I withdraw my objection to rallies, because it's everyone's right to rally for or against something. And why do I get the sinking feeling that those demonized yesterday seemed more willing than today's government (which claims, with such supreme self-confidence, to possess legitimacy) to let the public demonstrate? Perhaps, the explanation is a simple one: as Imelda Marcos once put it, to explain their political and financial success, "some are smarter than others." And we have a government today, that is the smartest of all. It recognizes that the true test of the rule of law is that might makes right. As to the only remaining question, which is whether the State has the right to defend itself, the answer must be a clear yes. But defend itself from clenched fists, speeches, protest music and banners (whatever their color may be), with a "calibrated preemptive response"? This is the behavior of a government that recognizes its legitimacy only in its press releases.

Euphemisms

YOUNG BLOOD

Rachelle D. Ubal

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"A EUPHEMISM REPLACES AN OBJECTIONABLE, DISagreeable, or coarse word or phrase with an agreeable or unobjectionable one." The woman at the bakeshop is chubby, not fat. Employees are downsized instead of fired. I may be described as vertically challenged instead of short. What great comfort…

But while euphemisms allow writers, speakers, us, to be inoffensive and polite, they also distort meanings or hide facts.

Let me go back to that life-changing, or more appropriately, life-saving dinner with my college friends. Over Thai food, Cherie, the writer among us, opened our usual forum dissecting love and intellectualizing relationships. She talked about the movie, "Little Black Book," and quoted disturbing lines like: "Omissions are betrayals," and "Do not over-commit yourself unless you're certain."

Disturbing, indeed, especially when you consider the fact that I was the only one on that table who was in a relationship. And not just any relationship: it was one with a charming and sweet boyfriend who was oh-so committed to me. Or at least, that's what I thought back then.

So that night, Cherie was my devil's advocate. As expected, there were friendly rebuttals and counter-arguments, after which we went home feeling smarter.

Not all of us, though, because I went to bed that night feeling more confused than I had ever been.

The next day, I rented the video. It all began with the Palm which, according to the movie, is "a girl's best friend under, the right circumstances… electronic footprints of where your man has been AND WITH WHOM."

Many people would say it was just a movie. And honestly, movies aren't exactly produced to create turning points in our lives but to make Hollywood's richest a couple of million dollars richer. It would be foolish to pattern your life after a movie script.

And yet, fiction is derived from life's truths. And despite statistics, like 1 out of 10 movies may turn out to be your life's blueprint, there is always that one deviant point. No matter how slim the chances, there is always a 10-percent probability it could happen to you.

Being with a really caring person for a year and eight months, I was afraid of finding out things I didn't want to know about. After all, I knew—I just knew—that he never lied to me. But there were no coincidences. There were always slips. Perhaps they'd been there the whole time, but I had sappily pushed them into the subconscious, and thought instead how sad it would be to be alone.

He is not cheating on me, he is just confused. Euphemisms. Perhaps there are things he doesn't tell me because they are no big deal. Perhaps I've been smothering him. Justifications. Of the worst kind, because I actually thought it was all my fault. My fault that he was spending more time in the office. My fault that he'd been "missing" my calls. My fault that his cell phone was out of reach for certain periods of time. My fault that he had to say he was just sleeping at home when I just spoke with his housemate who told me he didn't stay for the night.

But one accidental message later, I decided it was time to take risks. I asked the sender who she was. She said she was his girlfriend.

That couldn't be true, because she wasn't me, right? But she was his girlfriend like I was.

She was calling me because I had told her I was with him. And by some funny way of using mobile technology, we went on loudspeaker mode—the three of us in an awkward teleconference.

He told her I am the girlfriend. Hallelujah for me, I thought. The irrational love junkie actually rejoiced at that, proud to be THE ONE between The Two.

But to notch up the telenovela factor, I told him I needed time to think. I loved him and I'd forgiven him, I assured him. "But I don't think I can still trust you."

Two days later, the act was over. We were already making plans about renting videos to indulge in our usual video marathon weekend, and cooking dinner together. But there was this little devil pricking the back of my head with his horn: Why doesn't he want to tell the girl it's you he chose? Why do you believe him when he says he doesn't have the heart to tell her because she's already hurting? I knew I would never have peace of mind again.

True enough, because the girl forwarded to me this message from him saying, "I like and I love you. I'm yours; just give me time to settle things with her. And the reason why it's not her is better kept secret for her own good." Ouch. And I threw up.

I met up with the girl that same day, still feeling the sourness of vomit in my mouth. She showed me the other messages. And I showed her messages he had sent to me. They were paraphrases of each other.

He arrived at the place, sheepishly, no, stupidly sporting a face that read "Busted!" All he could say was: "I can't stand to lose any of you."

Well, that was no problem, because he lost both of us.

I've always valued peace of mind more than romance. "Little Black Book" was not exactly my story. But it was that movie that got me thinking. It was that little devil's advocate, the "I don't think so" following lame excuses for missed calls, the water level that showed a bigger tip of the iceberg. Omissions are indeed betrayals.

Euphemisms can be comforting. But what comfort is found in lies and cover-ups? What reassurance can we get from things we don't know? Truth transcends fleeting emotions, such as loneliness, excitement and, sometimes, even love.

"Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

Rachelle D. Ubal, 25, works as an editorial assistant for a research organization based in a university in Metro Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Imelda's jewelry as tourist attraction?

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government has announced that a jewelry collection worth about $10 million (P560 million), which is reportedly owned by Imelda Marcos, is set for auction by international auction houses Sotheby's or Christie's.

There are 85 million of us, Filipinos, out there who are curious about how these precious stones look like. Not only that, there are more millions of people out there, tourists included, who are equally interested in having a look at these rare gems and knowing how such a fabulous collection was acquired.

Why can't we make use of this oddity for income generation by building instead a museum for its display? A P100-entrance fee for the locals and $5 for the tourists would not be exorbitant; after all, the contents of the museum are not ordinary jewelry.

If Hong Kong has a new Disneyland, we can have our own unique selling point: a museum of human frivolity. Besides, it will teach the young of all generations lessons from the sins of our past. The exhibit will show how plunder looks like; and a visual and tactile exhibition of a chapter of our history will be helpful in disproving the accusation that we are a people with a short collective memory. For all we know, the museum might become a "best seller" surpassing the projected sale of $10 million! Another upside: the trove keeps appreciating in value.

By showing the jewelry collection for the entire world to see, we are not into self-flagellation; we are going into a viable business proposition. A package tour with a sprig of "Imelda" makes it more interesting. Imelda, ironically, with all her faults, is a national treasure. Her name is now etymologically synonymous with profligacy and it's in the books. She may not be politically palatable, but she surely commands some following, even among those in power.

Selling the confiscated jewelry and integrating the sale proceeds into the national fund will bring us to nowhere. Look at what happened to the disposition of funds generated from the sale of prime lands in Fort Bonifacio and of the PCGG-recovered assets, etc. The funds will only end up as a fare in a congressman's pork meal.

—SONNY E. PULGAR,
2041 Edison cor. Aragon Sts.,
San Isidro, Makati City

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Philippines more racist than Australia?

I HAVE LONG BEEN AN ADMIRER of columnist Rina Jimenez-David. In fact, as contributing editor in many of the late Earl Wilkinson's writings, I took many quotes from her columns for his books. However, I feel her column regarding the International School was a little misguided, specifically her inference that the root cause of the problem was racism.

I agree that the same structure of recompense should apply to people doing the same job and having the same qualifications. However, I think that she will agree with me that a school claiming to be international, providing a foreign-based syllabus that qualifies its students for acceptance in the school system of a foreign country, must also employ foreign tutors.

Foreigners working away from both home and country require additional incentives, such as accommodation, in order to be enticed to work here. Thus, although the base pay should be equal, the add-ons should apply on a case-to-case basis. Thus, I take exception to the insinuations of racism by David.

Many years ago, a Geoffrey Gray of the Australian Embassy gave a talk before a Rotary Club of which I was then a member. During question time, one member asked him whether it was true that Asians were subject to racial bigotry in Australia.

Gray physically bristled at the question. He said that once a foreigner was granted permanent residence in Australia, he or she could purchase a house and lot, and own and operate any shop or business. And Gray added, there was not one rate for locals and another for foreigners, unlike here in the Philippines. Anyone could also avail of free education and medical care; even obtain unemployment benefits after a short waiting period.

Immigrants never needed to ever again report to the Immigration Office or pay annual fees. They could accept any position in any company without having to obtain permission from the government; in fact, they could do anything that a natural-born Australian could do except stand for an elected position or vote, Gray said.

Once naturalized, they could even stand in any election for any elected position, either in local or national government. Gray then pointed out: "Sir, compare this with the rights of foreigners in the Philippines and I think you will agree that you are the last person who has the right to infer Australians are racist." A clear case of "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones."

—ALAN C. ATKINS,
Circle Drive, Cubic Homes,
Parañaque City

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Begging for what's rightfully mine

AS OF JULY 7, 2004 A BALANCE OF P18,567.64 was reflected in the savings account of my daughter, Marichu Y. Fuentespina as survivorship pensioner. Her pensioner status was the result of the death of her husband, Vicente T. Fuentespina (SSS No. 07-1183638-5). However, this amount could no longer be withdrawn because my daughter is herself already dead. Following an arrangement between the Social Security System and the bank, this amount was returned to the Pensions Processing Center (PPC) at Social Security System-Diliman.

As the SSS-designated guardian of my daughter's totally orphaned children, I was told by SSS Bacolod that this amount could only be paid to me if the PPC could issue a clearance authorizing them to do so.

Looking back, the process I went through to procure the PPC clearance was an ordeal in itself. It took me a period of almost one year to accomplish this. To start with, on Sept. 15, 2004 I had to hire the services of a relative in Manila to personally make representations with the main office of the bank in Makati and the PPC in SSS Diliman to hasten the process, not to mention the voluminous correspondence I had to do.

Moreover, to take physical possession of the PPC clearance, I had to engage the services of another relative to personally get in touch with the PPC on July 14, 2005. The copy of the PPC clearance that he got and faxed to me was the same copy that I attached to my letter dated Aug. 1, 2005, requesting SSS Bacolod to finally pay me what was due me. Yet, as I write these lines, SSS Bacolod has not acted on my request. A knowledgeable source told me that, unlike other beneficiaries faced with the same problem, I was lucky to get hold of the PPC clearance itself. SSS branches, he said, do not ordinarily take the initiative to secure it; neither do they care about dispensing benefits over which they no longer have direct control.

In that case, I would like to respectfully remind SSS Bacolod to be more circumspect in dealing with a frail and sickly 80-year-old beneficiary like me.

For the past several months, I have been pleading with SSS Bacolod. Instead of responding to my repeated requests, it has reduced me to begging for something that rightfully belongs to me.

—PACITA V. YANSON,
Purok Yanson, Eroreco,
6100 Bacolod City

Lawmakers' partisanship betrayed public trust

AS THE VOTING ON THE IMPEACHMENT showed, decisions were made by the members of the House of Representatives (13th Congress) based largely on partisan lines. This shows the political immaturity and, perhaps, the lack of principles of many legislators.

Impeachment is not a partisan issue, it is a prosecution for "high crimes," including culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption of impeachable officers, such as the President (Sec. 2, Article XI, 1987 Constitution). Partisan issues are those involving differences in government policies and programs. A political party presents a program of government and fields for election men and women who are bound to implement them. Partisanship comes when the issue before Congress and other public bodies is whether or not to adopt certain proposed policies and programs of government.

There cannot be any partisanship in a prosecution for crimes. No political party advocates in its platform cheating in elections, treason, graft and corruption, other high crimes or betrayal of public trust. That's why in the United States and other mature democracies, impeachment is not treated as a partisan affair. Party members who commit graft or betray the public trust are thrown out of the party, impeached or forced to resign.

When members of Lakas and other political parties sided with the President because of partisanship, they themselves betrayed the public trust and showed political immaturity and lack of principles.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Erratum

Due to a computer glitch, the article "Bush's second gulf disaster," which first appeared on the Opinion page of the Sept. 12 issue of the INQUIRER, was inadvertently reprinted yesterday. We apologize for the mistake.—Ed.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

She makes Math easy learning for studes

By Gina Rodriguez
Ligao City

A FIRST YEAR STUDENT who was poor in reading comprehension and could not participate in problem-solving challenged her to devise simpler exercises using very simple English terms.

She was then on her seventh year of teaching Math, a subject matter that gives her the biggest challenge, she said.

In a way, Maylani L. Galicia, a Math teacher at the Ligao National High School (LNHS) in Albay, credits her Grade 1 teacher who did not force her to learn the subject but made her love and enjoy it through games, puzzles and tricks.

Today, Galicia is proud to say that Ligao students and teachers have been "inspired to engage in mathematical thinking."

At a recent Australian Math Competition, two students received certificates of credit, which means one landed in the top 36 percent of the examinees and the other in the top 45 percent.

Two LNHS teachers also won in a regional tilt on teacher's teaching devices sponsored by the Department of Education.

Galicia herself emerged first in the same tilt in 1999, which involved the use of original instructional device for Geometry.

"The biggest challenge every year is to raise the performance levels of students. Before, despite our many efforts, students still got low ratings in achievement tests but now they are able to participate in international Math competitions," she observed.

Coach

A classroom teacher and current officer in charge of the Math department, Galicia has also been assigned as department head for an extension school, the newly established Ligao Community College.

She coaches the division-level training of students in English and Math proficiency so they can confidently compete in Math olympiads.

Under her supervision are 13 Math teachers, aged 29 to 59 years old, who handle an average of 55 students per class.

The LNHS has a total of 60 sections. It provides free education, including textbooks, to more than 3,000 students coming from more than 20 villages.

There were only about 2,000 students when Galicia first taught in 1994, right after obtaining her BS Mathematics for Teachers degree at the Philippine Normal University, cum laude, under a scholarship from the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute.

Geometry is the subject she loves to teach the most "because it is the most practical branch of Math wherein you can use objects whose shapes and figures are everything around us."

"As compared to English, Math is a shorter way of communicating symbols where there is no need to memorize a lot. All you need is to analyze and solve problems on the spot," Galicia explained.

It helps that the school community has been very supportive of the trainings and in maximizing the resources given by the local government units for the needs of the public school students.

The current LNHS principal, Carmelita A. Sinson, named outstanding among her peers last year, "brought out the best in us," she said.

LIGAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DIVISION OF LIGAO CITY
1980

MAYLANI L. Galicia, a Math teacher at the Ligao National High School in Albay, was one of the 10 teachers chosen outstanding by Metrobank in this year's search. NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA

Outstanding

For her achievements, Galicia was chosen one of the 10 outstanding teachers by Metrobank in this year's search, the first from the LNHS and Ligao.

"It was a tough challenge, with Galicia realizing she is one of the youngest in terms of age and teaching experience during the second round of the nationwide search wherein there were 37 semifinalists short-listed for interview and demo teaching," Sinson said.

The selection of Galicia, only 32 years old and teaching for the past 11 years at the public high school, as one of the nation's best comes as a breezy news for Ligao.

Born and raised in Daraga, Galicia is the eldest of three children of a seamstress and a laborer.

Right after graduating as valedictorian of the public elementary school in Bongalon, Daraga, she asked her parents to send her to the Aquinas University Science-Oriented High School in Legazpi City where she finished with distinction.

She wanted to take up electrical engineering in college, but she decided that the DOST scholarship for teaching would be the practical option.

In 2000, Galicia was given a 14-month scholarship for a masteral study at the Ateneo de Manila by the National Educators Academy of the Philippines.

Sacrifice

Galicia also realized that winners inevitably must take chances, as she recalled the many sacrifices that come with being a teacher. She is mother to two boys and two girls, aged 9, 8, 4 and 3.

"I was pregnant with my third child when I started taking my masters and towards the completion of the program, I was pregnant with my fourth child," she said.

Her husband, a hotel and restaurant management graduate and now a nonteaching staff member at the St. Agnes' Academy in Legazpi, fully supported her career path. He was her childhood chum and elementary schoolmate in Daraga.

There were several instances just before the screening for her masteral scholarship grant or during the semifinal round in the Metrobank search for outstanding teachers in Makati when she would receive messages that one child would be sideswiped by a motorcycle or another had to be rushed to the hospital for dengue.

"Those events made me realize that excellence could be achieved even in the midst of pressure," Galicia said.

PhilHealth's Sponsored Program:

Pursuing a Noble Cause Despite the Odds

IT is considered the heart of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and is, in fact, a cause that no other organization would have wanted to pursue, given the intricacies of its implementation. But guided by its mandate to ensure that all Filipinos, regardless of economic standing, are provided with health insurance coverage, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) continues to see the Sponsored Program through, no matter what the obstacles are.

What is the Sponsored Program?

It was in 1997 when the first local government unit (LGU), the province of Abra, forged ties with PhilHealth for the enrolment of its indigent residents into the Sponsored Program. Back then, the program was called Indigent Program. Priority for coverage under the said program at that time were areas identified under the Social Reform Agenda of then President Fidel V. Ramos who issued Administrative Order 277 calling on PhilHealth to focus its efforts on the poorest 25 percent of the entire RP population.

The Program primarily entails the enrolment of the less privileged members of society into PhilHealth. Through this mechanism, the medical care benefits that seemed unreachable to the poor were already available to them, through the auspices of the sponsoring LGU and of the National Government through PhilHealth.

Among these medical care benefits were allowances for hospital room and board fees for the principal member and his legal dependents, for x-ray and other laboratory exams, for the use of the operating room complex, as well as for the professional fees of the attending physicians. A set of out-patient diagnostic benefits is also available for the enrolled families at PhilHealth-accredited rural health units, aside from the regular out-patient benefits ranging from chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cataract extraction and minor surgical procedures.

How are the enrolled families chosen?

When PhilHealth started implementing the Sponsored Program in the late-'90s, it employed a selection mechanism called Community-Based Information System - Minimum Basic Needs (CBIS-MBN) where families were carefully screened to ensure that they indeed, deserved the benefit but cannot afford to shoulder the annual premium contribution to the Program. It took PhilHealth several months after the initial screening process to finally ascertain the list and the efforts paid off well.

Today, the screening process begins with the submission by the LGU of a list of the indigent families in their localities, based on the listing of the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). PhilHealth, through its enumerators, administers the Family Data Survey Form (FDSF) and validates the results using economic and other parameters that will ascertain the eligibility of the families in the list. Once validation is completed, PhilHealth bills the LGU for their share in the annual premium of the families and releases the Family Health Cards when payment, or at least a Certificate of Fund Availability (CAF) is issued by the LGU. An orientation on how the Card may be used follows at the LGU level.

How much do LGUs pay annually?

The annual premium contribution of each enrolled indigent family is pegged at P1,200. The sharing scheme between the National Government and the LGU depends on the income classification of the LGU that is sponsoring the enrolment. First to third class cities and municipalities equally share the financial burden with the National Government for the entire duration of the program. On the other hand, the premium contribution of fourth to sixth class LGUs are progressively increased and these are only made equal to that of the National Government only when they are upgraded to 1st, 2nd or 3rd class categories.

Is the sponsorship limited to LGUs?

Almost ten years after the initial steps toward program implementation were made, PhilHealth has secured the support of over 1,488 LGUs around the archipelago, regardless of political affiliation. This is an indication that more and more local government officials have seen the beauty of the program, especially where providing their needy constituents with access to quality health care services is concerned.

The Sponsored Program has equally gained the trust and confidence of sponsors from the private sector including socially responsible companies and philanthropic individuals who have taken on the financial role of the LGUs.

GlaxoSmithKline, for one, has enrolled over 10,000 indigent families from Quezon City, Manila, Taytay, Cainta, Ilocos Norte, Tacloban and other project sites since 2002. Now on its third year of implementation, GSK and PhilHealth foresee a cost-sharing mechanism with the families enrolled in the program, to instill in them a sense of dignity especially where their health care needs are concerned.

Various chapters of the Rotary Club, Lions Club and Inner Wheel Clubs nationwide, as well as religious organizations, credit cooperatives, banks, schools, and medical societies have similarly paid for the enrolment of indigent families, bringing to fore the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan*. Caring individuals like Engr. Gregorio Macaraig of Sta. Maria, Laurel, Batangas and Isagani V. Fuentes of Davao City have also enabled poor families to access quality health care, a dream they have been wanting to realize.

A worthy cause to support

The Sponsored Program continues to knock on the doors of those who are willing to share their good fortune to the less privileged sector. It continues to appeal to corporate citizens about to embark on their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and help bring the good news on health to as many needy Filipinos as possible.

So the next time you think of a worthy cause to support, take the Sponsored Program of PhilHealth in mind and experience the joy of being able to help the less fortunate, by ensuring that they have medical care coverage, wherever and whenever they need it most.

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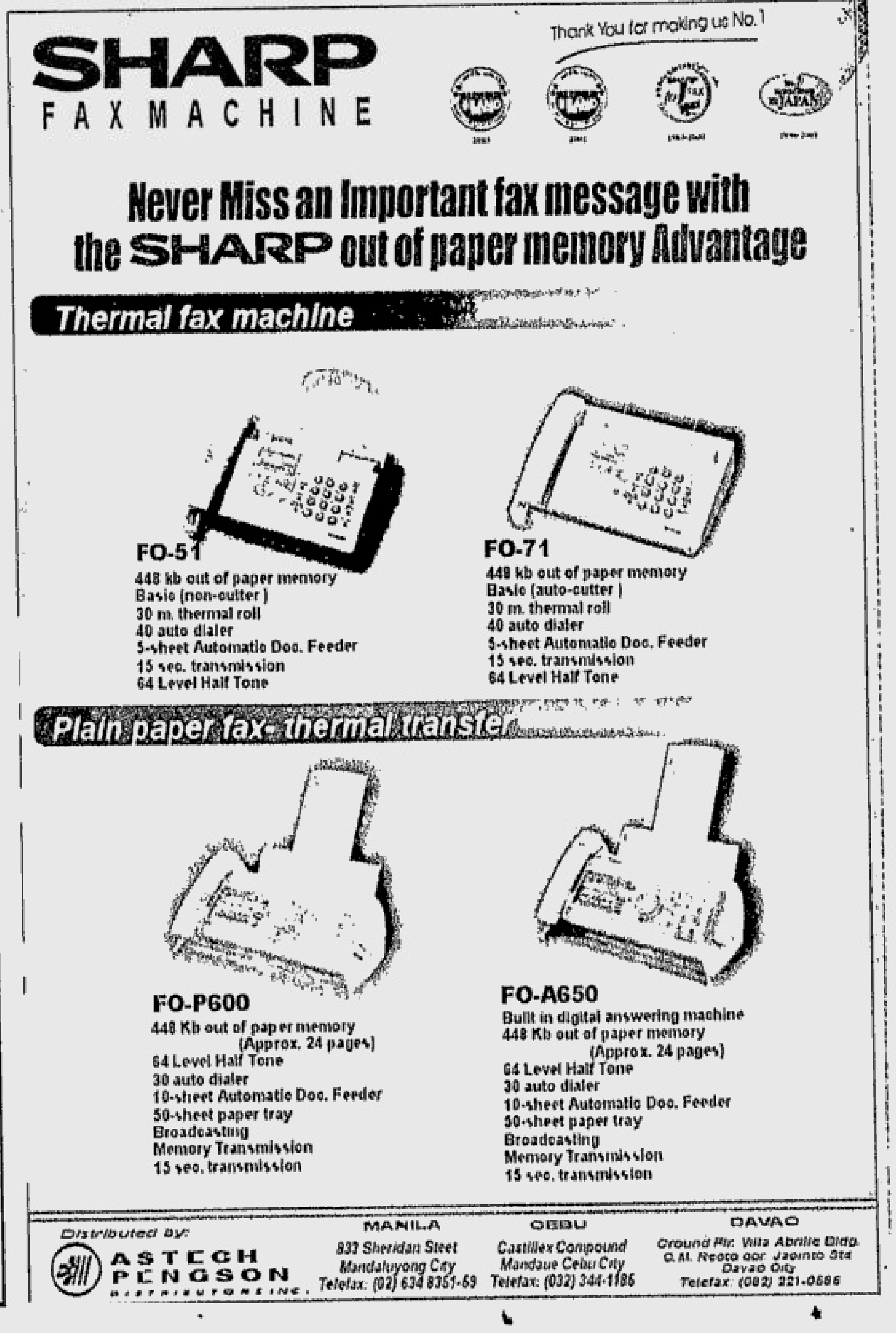
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'Labuyo' kills 8 in Bicol provinces

A STORM HEADED TOWARD THE NORTHERN regions killed at least eight people, including a father and son who sought shelter in a cave, and flooded dozens of villages, officials said yesterday.

One woman was reported missing after she slipped off a bridge into a river in Albay province, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Weather forecasters raised the first of a four-stage storm warning over 14 provinces on Luzon as tropical storm Labuyo headed northwest from the Pacific Ocean to Cagayan with sustained winds of 55 km per hour.

Twenty-six villages in Camarines Sur and two municipalities in Albay were still under water as of yesterday afternoon.

The OCD in Legazpi City identified the casualties as Efren Napili, 48, and his 16-year-old son Jefrey Napili of Camalig, Albay; Ronald Evangelista, 10, and a certain Lasala, 12, both of Sorsogon; Ester Bonito, 40, of Rapu-Rapu, Albay; Rose Ann Banal and Sonny Hugo of Bato, Camarines Sur; Jemerio Reonal, 10, of Oas, Albay. One casualty, a woman from Masbate, is unidentified.

After the rains

Labuyo followed monsoon rains last week that flooded wide areas of Luzon.

Several roads in Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon were closed to traffic.

In Cagayan Valley, flooding was the main cause of the road closures.

In Isabela province, the Cabagan-Isabela Sta. Maria overflow bridge and the Dalibubon concrete overflow bridge were declared impassable to vehicles.

The Sangbay-Aurora section in Nueva Vizcaya and the Disimugal-Deuraban section in Quirino province of the Cordon-Diffun-Maddela-Aurora road were also closed to motorists.

The DPWH also prevented vehicles from using the Magaling Bridge in Cagayan province.

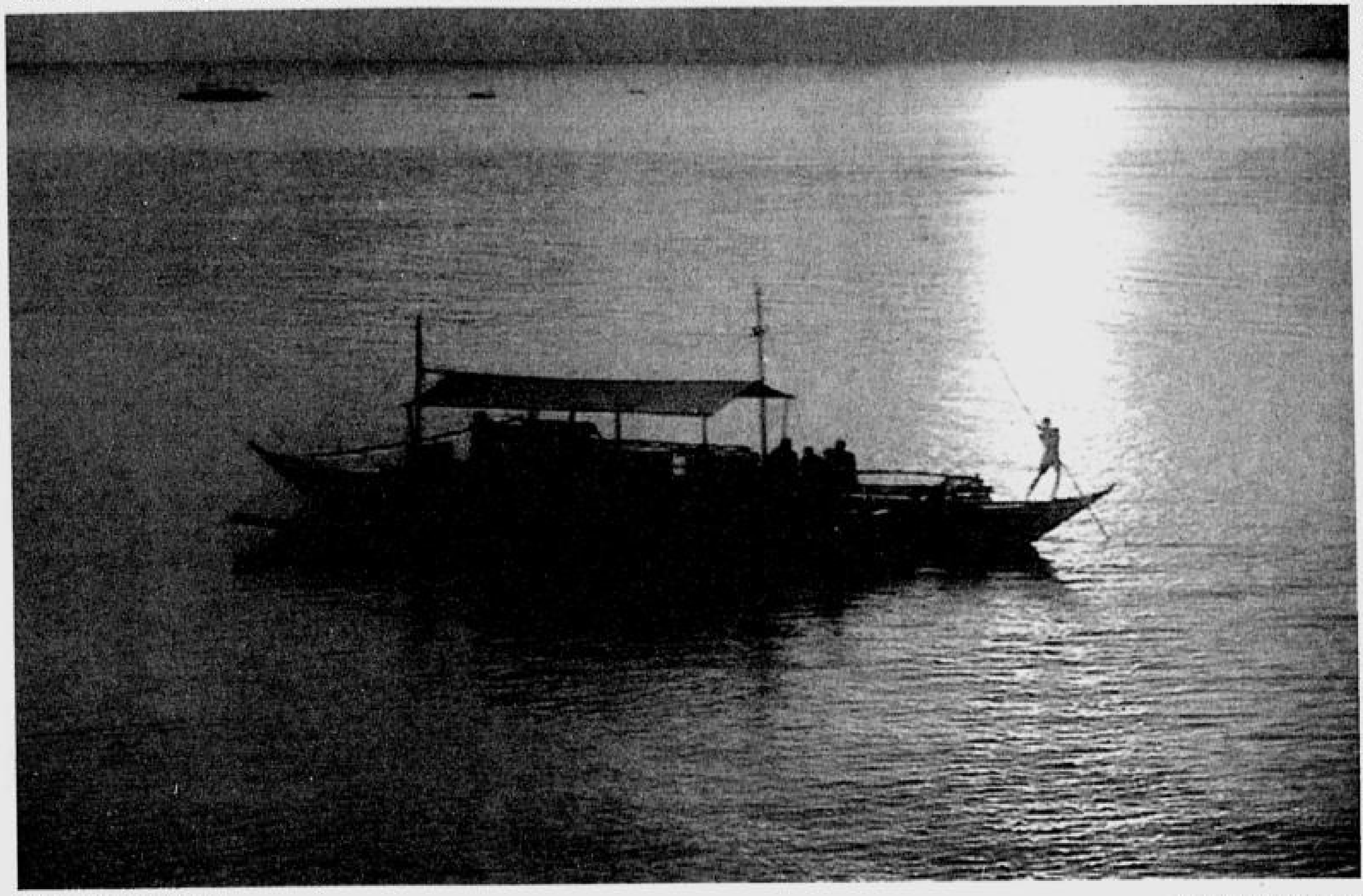
In Central Luzon, additional portions of the Camatis-Villa Aurora section of the Nueva Ecija-Aurora road and the Dianed section of the Baler-Casiguran road were rendered impassable due to flooding.

Roadblocks

Mud and debris prompted the closure of Kilometers 63 to 69 of the Sta. Ana-Candaba-Baliwag road and Kilometers 72 to 80 of the Candaba-San Miguel road.

The DPWH's Bureau of Maintenance has already deployed heavy equipment and personnel to conduct clearing operations. Warning signs have also been installed to warn motorists about road closures.

The country is hit by about 20 storms and typhoons a year. Three storms that came within days of each other late last year triggered massive landslides and flash floods that left more than 1,000 dead or missing in Quezon and Aurora provinces, making it the worst typhoon season since 6,000 were killed in Southern Leyte in 1991. *Leila Salaverria in Manila and Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with Inquirer wires*



COMING HOME
Sightseers return to shore after a day of beach-hopping in Panglao, Bohol.

YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Peace with RP rebs seen key to Asia stability

BAGUIO CITY—UNDERSECRETARY Rene Sarmiento, officer-in-charge of the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (Opapp), said various countries are awaiting the government's peace accord with Moro rebels because it will stabilize the Asian region.

Japanese Embassy Minister for Political Affairs Taeko Takahashi said attaining peace in some parts of Mindanao is essential to keeping East Asian commerce and trade lanes open.

Sarmiento and Takahashi attended the celebration of the United Nations' international day of peace in front of the Tower of Peace monument here on Wednesday. Sarmiento said the event enjoins every state and organization to cease all hostilities.

Neither official made references to the supposed links between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and bandit groups tagged as local terrorists, but Takahashi said violence in some parts of Mindanao were not isolated events because they reverberate throughout Asia.

"[Japan] is very much hoping to see enduring peace and stability in Mindanao. The Japanese government [considers a successful conclusion to the MILF peace talks] very important to the peace and stability in this part of the country, because it will affect the peace and stability and prosperity of the entire country ... and it will have an impact on the rest of the region," she said.

Takahashi said "no part of the country will be isolated from the destiny of the region."

Sarmiento said the government is talking peace with the MILF, the National Democratic Front, the Leftist splinter group Alex Boncayao Brigade-Revolutionary Proletarian Army (ABB-RPA), Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa (RPM), and the United Cordillera People's Liberation Army.

Of these peace talks, the government is expecting to wrap up the MILF negotiations for a December accord, Sarmiento said.

Sarmiento said back channel talks with the NDF helped reopen talks only to have the commitments withdrawn again by NDF representatives.

But he said the government's desire to end the more than 30-year-old insurgency forced it to retain the immunity of the NDF negotiating panel.

The 1987 cessation of hostilities between the CPLA and the government will enter its 20th anniversary in 2007, but the government is still hard put providing livelihood programs to the rebels, Sarmiento said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Laguna execs press for electricity return

SINILOAN, LAGUNA—LAGUNA Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Siniloan Mayor Gilmor de Leon-Acero said they would press the First Laguna Electric Cooperative (Fleco) to end recurrent outages in four Laguna towns.

Lazaro made the assurance after learning from the INQUIRER about the power outage, now on its sixth day, in Siniloan, Famy, Mabitac and Sta. Maria towns.

She said Fleco consumers have always experienced this power supply irregularity.

"There are suggestions for Meralco to take over the power firm but the problem is that Fleco has a huge debt from the World Bank," the governor said.

Fleco manager Bonifacio de Castro said yesterday that Fleco's 10-member crew has been working overtime to end the almost one-week outage with the help of four National Transmission Corp. engineers. He said power could be back today.

De Castro admitted that Fleco was indebted to the World Bank through the National Electrification Administration for about P80-83 million worth of electrical equipment accumulated since 1973.

He said the company had applied for condonation of its debt but this did not materialize.

Fleco experienced losses in several villages it had energized by spending millions of pesos but did not earn because only a handful of subscribers had applied for electricity, De Castro said.

Acero said De Castro told him that the explosion of a transformer, which supplies electricity to the four towns, caused the outage. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pope summons San Pablo priest to work in Vatican

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN PABLO CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI has appointed a member of the San Pablo, Laguna clergy to work with him in the Vatican, according to a letter the Pope signed, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER on Monday.

The assignment of Msgr. Jerry Veluz Bitoon, 51, honorary prelate and Doctor of Sacred Theology, is contained in the Roman Pontiff's letter dated Aug. 23 and written in Italian language.

Bitoon is the concurrent vicar general of the Diocese of San Pablo since July last year.

He said he will leave for Rome on Sept. 29 to start working at the Vatican's Office of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fidei) headed by Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe.

Bitoon said he was informed of his appointment when he arrived at the United States in the first week of September for an official travel on behalf of his current parish, the St. Sepulcro Parish in Barangay Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna.

In a text message to the INQUIRER from the US on Sept. 13, Bitoon said he was asked by Archbishop Antonio Franco, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, to work in the office of Cardinal Sepe at the Vatican.

"Obedience and availability for service made me accept cheerfully this new chapter in life! 'E' cosi la vita! (That's how life is!)' as the Italians say," he said.

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Negros town mayor dies

BACOLOD CITY—SAGAY Mayor Fortunato Javelosa, 56, died of liver failure at the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City at about 9:15 a.m. Monday, Gov. Joseph Marañon announced Tuesday.

He is survived by his wife Susan Marañon-Javelosa, a first cousin of the governor, and their children Kent, Kevin and Kimberly. Javelosa's body lies at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels in Bacolod City.

His remains will be brought to Sagay City, for an overnight wake today and returned to the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels the next day.

Interment will be on Sunday at the Rolling Hills Memorial Park in Bacolod after a 2 p.m. Mass. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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QC to start issuing own traffic tickets on Oct. 1

By DJ Yap

IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE implementation of Quezon City's new traffic code.

Beginning Oct. 1, Quezon City's "yellow boys" would be issuing the city's own ordinance violation receipts (OVRs) to traffic violators, as the Traffic Management Code takes effect.

Approved by the City Council in June, the code is a copy of the uniform ordinance that Metro Manila cities and municipalities agreed to adopt, reverting the traffic ticketing role to the local governments from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Where the MMDA used to issue traffic tickets, Quezon City enforcers would start using OVRs, said Manuel Sabalza, chief of the city's Department of Public Order and Safety.

Under the code, traffic enforcers are authorized to confiscate a traffic violator's driver's license and issue an OVR, which shall serve as a temporary license for five days.

Fines collected for traffic violations would also go to Quezon City's coffers, unlike before when the collection went to the MMDA, Sabalza said. He told the INQUIRER the scheme was expected to earn for the city government some P30-50 million every year.

The code, however, has a provision that says revenues from traffic fines would be used only for traffic operations, he said.

Confiscated driver's licenses or vehicle plates would be redeemable at the new DPOS Redemption Center at the site of the old MMDA redemption center on Kalayaan Avenue, Gate 5, Quezon City Hall Compound.

The redemption center is already about 95 percent finished, and the DPOS expects to complete it before the month ends, said Dennis Amante, a traffic supervisor.

Amante said the DPOS had done a month-long study of the traffic operations of LGUs that already implemented their own versions of the code.

He said the model the DPOS was following for its orderly ticketing system was that of Mandaluyong City.

Traffic enforcers were trained about the new code for two months, Sabalza said. The city government also consulted the private sector and deputized barangay workers before deciding to push through with the implementation of the code.

Under the code, traffic enforcers would also honor OVRs issued by other cities or municipalities in Metro Manila, Sabalza said.

For instance, if a traffic violator shows an enforcer an OVR earlier issued him/her, instead of a driver's license, the enforcer shall confiscate the OVR and issue another receipt.

Reduced bank taxes mulled in Taguig City

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAGUIG CITY BUSINESSMEN couldn't be happier.

The local government is seriously considering a proposal to reduce local taxes imposed on banks and other financial institutions in a bid to attract more investors to the city.

Councilor Allan Cruz, majority floor leader of the City Council said in a statement yesterday that the council was thinking of bringing down taxes to as low as .08 percent based on annual receipts.

The local government is currently charging a 50 percent tax on banks and other financial establishments.

While Makati City plans to revise its revenue code by raising its taxes from 10 to 50 percent from the current .15 percent, Muntinlupa City has offered the lowest rates, charging .10 percent for banks and .30 percent for other financial institutions.

Quezon City, on the other hand, charges .25 percent, the Taguig City Public Information Office said yesterday.

"We are carefully studying our options. We have to balance the impact of lowering such taxes on businesses with the additional income these would generate for the city government," Cruz' statement added. At present, the City Council is conducting research and consultations with different sectors to determine which financial institutions could be covered by the reduced tax rates. The Council is now working on a draft ordinance for the proposed new rates.

Lower tax rates for industrial zones in the city like the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI), the Mañalac Estate in Bagumbayan and the Bagong Tanyag area, were also being considered added Ana Santos, Taguig public information office head. The ordinance was also expected to boost moves involving the possible relocation of Makati-based businesses to the city.

RAIN OR SHINE
A little rain didn't stop these children from going to their school along Quirino Avenue in Manila.
JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Crime bands behind killings?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

CRIMINAL GROUPS IN THICKLY POPULATED areas could be behind the spate of summary executions in Manila in the past months.

"Most of the groups' victims were drug couriers or runners who had apparently displeased them," said Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo, Manila Police District Homicide Section chief.

The 10th victim of possible summary execution since July was found floating in a creek in Quiapo, Manila yesterday morning.

The victim, a male, was wearing a black sleeveless shirt and denim shorts, about 20 to 25 years old and 5'4" tall.

A nylon cord was tied to his neck and he had three gunshot wounds in different parts of the body. Arevalo said most of the victims were found in areas close to the Islamic Center in Quiapo, and the Baseco Compound and Isla Puting Bato in Tondo.

The witnesses would initially share information with the police, but would later refuse to put their statements in writing, Arevalo lamented.

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Footbridges in Caloocan

HAY, SA WAKAS!

THREE more foot bridges are rising over three major thoroughfares in Caloocan City due to the high incidence of accidents in the areas. The footbridges are being built at a cost of P40 million in Bagong Barrio in front of the Pag-ibig building, on Malvar and Tirona Streets. Funding for the projects came from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

New QC business hub eyed

QUEZON City councilors are moving to declare the North and East Triangles as the city's business and economic hub. The North and East Triangle Zones are seen as "a nest of growth" in Metro Manila's biggest city, said Councilors Antonio Inton Jr. and Restituto Malangen. The two filed a resolution that would authorize Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to undertake a study for the development of the area. *DJ Yap*

Manila kids get hearing aids

CHRISTMAS came early to some Manila schoolchildren with hearing deficiencies. When the city government signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ledesma Audiological Center Inc. providing hearing-impaired children with free hearing aids. Mayor Lito Atienza said the project aims to distribute hearing aids to poor but deserving students from 7 to 15 years old. At least 50 students have benefited from the project. *Tina G. Santos*

Who is Gonzales protecting?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

NATIONAL SECURITY Adviser Norberto Gonzales was cited in contempt and detained by the Senate yesterday for refusing to answer questions regarding the controversial contract he reportedly signed with a US lobby firm.

Apparently due to stress, Gonzales had to be given medical care after intense grilling from senators.

For a person who supposedly holds the security of the state in his hands, this guy is a weakling.

By golly, he should be replaced!

We don't need someone like him in that highly sensitive post.

***Sus, 'Day, mag*-resign *ka na* because your job is not for sissies.**

* * *

Anyway, why couldn't Gonzales come out with straight answers at the Senate hearing?

Why would he not tell the truth?

Who is he protecting?

If he told everything he knew about the controversial deal with Venable LLP, he wouldn't be rushed to the Philippine Heart Center.

His blood pressure rose because he was hiding something from the senators.

Mr. Gonzales has probably forgotten the Bibilical injunction about telling the truth since "the truth shall set (him) free."

* * *

The US government apparently doesn't think very much of Vice President Noli de Castro.

Uncle Sam thinks De Castro would do further damage to the country's political and economic situation if he succeeds President Macapagal-Arroyo should she be forced to resign.

No doubt about that.

But the US government also had an incompetent vice president in the person of Dan Quayle.

This vice president could not even spell "potato" correctly.

***Buti pa si* De Castro, at least he knows how to spell "potato."**

Hehehe!

* * *

Many Filipino intellectuals thought that after Joseph Estrada, Filipino voters would realize their mistake when choosing a public official, by shunning *artista* and other show business personalities for posts in the national leadership.

But our voters never learn.

They still insist on having persons with inadequate qualifications installed in high positions.

Look at De Castro.

Look at the mother-son tandem at the Senate, Jinggoy and Loi Ejercito.

Then there is Lito Lapid.

He needs the services of a translator when he listens to speeches of his colleagues at the Senate.

The fact that we have these officials around show how naive some of our voters are.

When our voters become intelligent, that's the time we start having leaders who are qualified and competent.

Right now, we have to grin and bear it.

People in other countries could be laughing at us.

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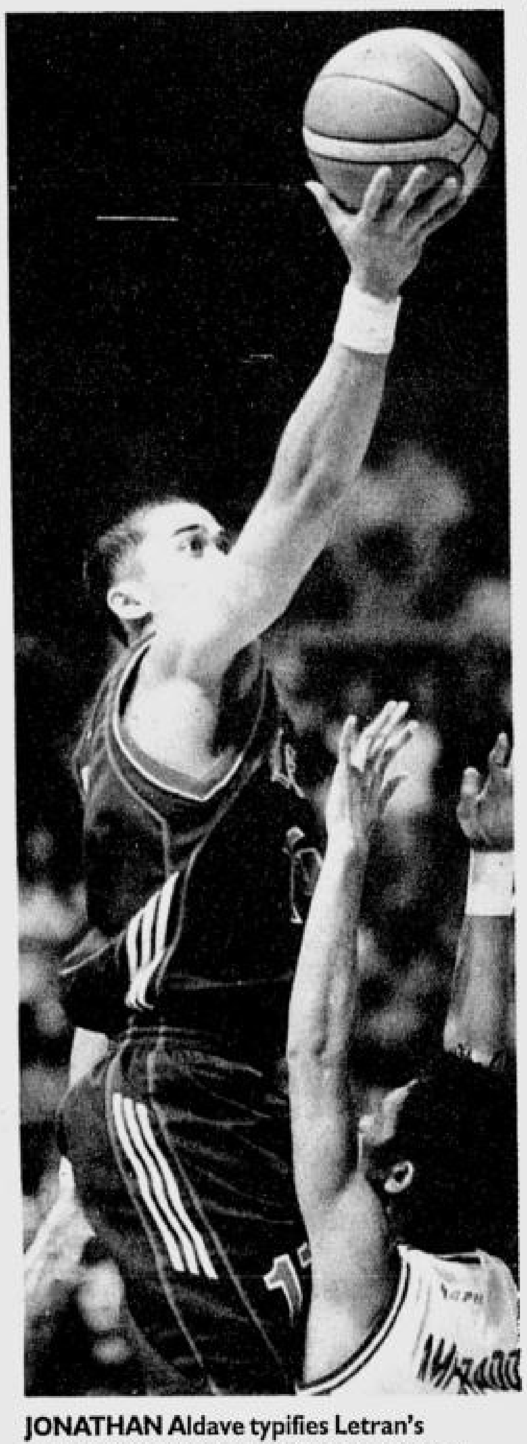
6 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

Knights forge playoff with masterful win



JONATHAN Aldave typifies Letran's domination of PCU with this unopposed layup off Lisztian Amparado yesterday.

ROMY HOMILLADA

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWING NO SHORTAGE OF CONFIDENCE, the Letran Knights forged a knockout game for the NCAA men's basketball crown after ripping the Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 78-60, in Game 2 yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAME TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
3 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Game 3-Srs)

"We were able to minimize the point production of some of their players," said coach Louie Alas after the Knights evened the best-of-three series at 1-1.

"It's a given that (Gabby) Espinas, (Jason) Castro and (Robert) Sanz will shoot, but the rest we were able to stop," added Álas. "Defensively, we executed well."

The title playoff is set tomorrow also at the Big Dome.

Coming out big right from the start, veteran point guard Boyet Bautista fired 19 points on top of six rebounds and six assists to lead another solid performance by the Knights' first five.

Earlier, the San Sebastian Staglets completed a junior title sweep over three-time champion San Beda Cubs in an 81-69 upset behind Finals Most Valuable Player Eric Salamat.

The 17-year-old forward, who powered the Staglets to their first crown since 1986, delivered 19 points, nine rebounds and six steals. Paul Lee topscored with 23 markers.

Espinas came up with another explosive performance, drilling in 21 points and grabbing 15 rebounds for the Dolphins.

Castro, who fueled the Dolphins' 79-74 Game 1 triumph with 21 markers, was limited to 11.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SSC 81—Lee 23, Salamat 19, Buenafe 11, Reyes 9, Macasaet 8, Morales 7, Tan 4, Soledad 0, Gatchalian 0.

SAN BEDA 69—Afuang 16, Guillermo 14, Hermida 13, Principe 10, Marcelo 6, Montecastro 5, Mallari 2, Babilonia 2,

Quarters: 18-17, 40-42, 50-60, 81-69

Second Game (Srs)

LETRAN 78—Bautista 19, Aldave 15, Aban 12, Alcaraz 12, Rodriguez 8, Andaya 7, Jazul 5, Quinday 0, Anabo 0, Realista 0, Piñera 0, Balneg 0.

PCU 60—Espinas 21, Castro 11, Sanz 7, Amparado 7, Belga 5, Solis 3, Retaga 3, Cecilia 2, Acraman 1, Rivera 0, Cunanan 0, Salangsang 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 44-33, 61-45, 78-60

Budget shortfall bugs SEAG

By Philip C. Tubeza

A P300-MILLION BUDGETARY PROBLEM continues to bug the 23rd Southeast Asian Games scheduled to be held in Manila in late November, the chair of the House committee on youth and sports revealed Tuesday.

With a little over two months remaining before the start of the SEAG, Camarines Norte Rep. Renato Unico Jr. said that the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) is still searching for funds to meet its P1.2 billion budget.

Some of the games' private sponsors have also withdrawn their pledges and the government is expected to shoulder 30 percent of the Games' funding, he added.

"Our national integrity and pride are at stake here. All Filipinos therefore must contribute and play a role in helping make the forthcoming SEA Games a success," Unico said in a privilege speech.

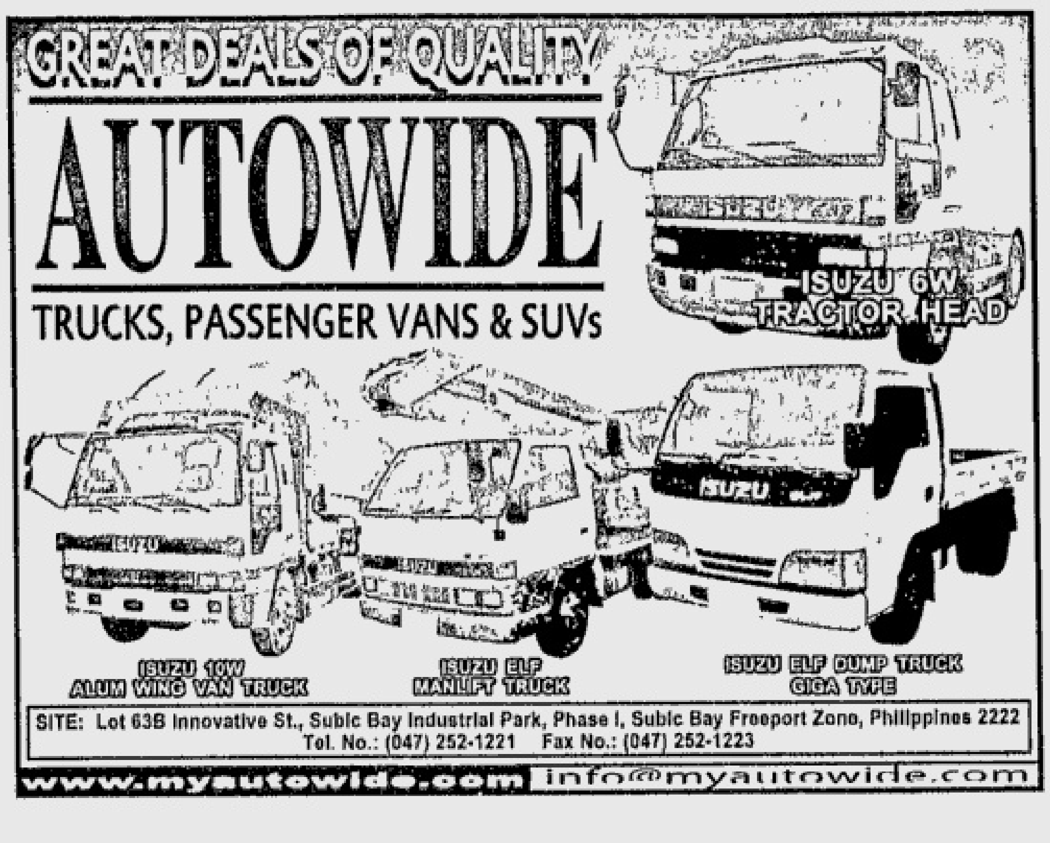
The country's third staging of the SEAG is set Nov. 27-Dec. 5 in Metro Manila and three other provinces.

Unico said P200 million alone was needed for sports equipment which have to be ordered abroad and shipped to the country. He said he learned on Sept. 1 that electronic timing devices have yet to be ordered for lack of available funds.

The Department of Public Works and Highways have yet to renovate the various sports venues due to lack of funds, he added.

Philsoc also needs around 150 computers and copying machines to be installed in all the 49 sports venues and designated hotel services.

A more pressing concern, he said, is the fact that the management of designated hotels and lodging places is now demanding at least 10-percent downpayment for room reservations.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Eagles, Warriors decide No. 3 spot

THE DE LA SALLE ARCHERS SNEAKED past them to claim the remaining twice-to-beat incentive in the UAAP basketball tournament.

GAME TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Srs)

Now the Ateneo Eagles and the University of the East Warriors will try to regain their winning form when they collide at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum to decide who will be ranked as No. 3 at the end of the eliminations.

The winner will take on the defending champion Archers in the Final Four on Sunday, while the losing team will battle the top-ranked Far Eastern U Tamaraws in the other semifinal pairing.

The Archers, who were running fourth most of the season, downed the Eagles and the Warriors successively to forge a three-way tie at 10-4 with their victims and then earned the No. 2 spot outright due to superior quotient.

"In the beginning of the year, the goal was to reach the Final Four and we accomplished that," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "We had a chance to come in second but we let that one go."

Coach Dindo Pumaren also acknowledged the missed opportunity, but said his Warriors are focused on moving on.

"We're going for the third spot," said Pumaren. "We're after the improvement of the team because last year we finished fourth."

The Warriors, however, will still miss Marcy Arellano, who's recovering from dengue. But the 2004 Rookie of the Year is expected to get back in action in the Final Four.

Although the Eagles swept the Warriors in the elimination, Black doesn't see an easy contest.

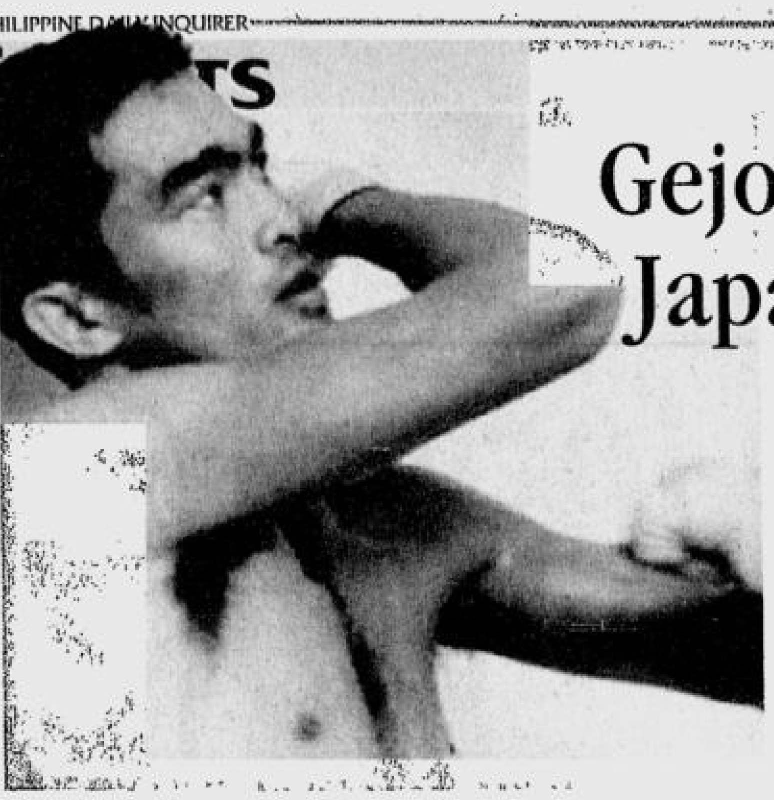
"It's going to be tough, there's no question," noted Black. "It's good going into the game that we've beaten them, but we have to play much better than we did (against La Salle) to beat UE."

The Eagles edged the Warriors, 65-63, in their first meeting and scored a 75-69 repeat in the second round. Ateneo's first five, led by veteran playmaker LA Tenorio and forward JC Intal, came out big in both games.

"We must have a strong start," said Pumaren, who will again rely on top freshman gunner Bonbon Custodio. " In our last two games against Ateneo, we didn't start with our usual game."

Last Thursday, Franz Pumaren's Archers blasted the Eagles, 72-55, for the second time this season.

Jasmine W. Payo



GEJON : I'm already prepared and will do my best.

Dy trips De Castro

TOP SEED FIL-AMERICAN DENISE Dy defeated wild card Ivy Kristel De Castro, 6-1, 6-3, yesterday to reach the girls' singles second round of the Phinma-International Tennis Federation (ITF) Juniors Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City. Dy, who will see action in the coming SEA Games, will next meet Austrian Natascha Bredl, who struggled past Japanese qualifier Maho Kowase, 6-2, 7-6 (2).

Locals Noelle Conchita, Melissa Rose Orteza and Jessica Marie Agra also won their matches to join the California-based Dy in the next round of this Group 4 event supported by Dunlop balls, Holiday Inn Manila Galleria, Bayer Philippines and Futures Foundation.

The sixth-seeded Zoleta prevailed over Taiwanese Chen Tzou Jou, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, to advance against Japanese Ayumi Yoshida.

Gejon impresses Japanese media

UNDEFEATED WORLD BOXING ASSOCIAtion No. 2 minimumweight Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon impressed the Japanese boxing media the other day in his first public workout held at the Teiken Gym in Tokyo, Japan.

Gejon sparred two rounds with world-rated Teruo Misawa, a protege of promoter Akihiko Honda, but refused to give it his all, opting to throw stinging left jabs and well-timed uppercuts at his rival.

"All the press men were very much surprised at his size (tall and muscled), and they could not believe he (Gejon) has no weight-problems..." a Japanese boxing manager told this writer in a long-distance interview.

The 26-year-old Gejon will try to dethrone WBA minimumweight titlist Yutaka Niida of Japan on Sunday at the Yokohama Arena.

Gejon (21-0-1 with 13 knockouts) is expected to be cheered by Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

At 1 p.m. today, the medical examination for both Gejon and Niida (21-2 16 KOs) will be held.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Motorsports body lauds DoE verdict

THE LOCAL MOTORSPORTS COMMUNITY yesterday lauded the decision of the Department of Energy not to push through with its plan of banning motorsports races in the country.

Department of Energy Secretary Raphael PM Lotilla announced the decision during the Motorsports 14 Show at The Forum of the PICC recently as he acknowledged the importance of Philippine motorsports.

"We are definitely happy over his decision," said Johnny Tan, Motorsports community chairperson. "In return, the motorsports community vows all out support to the government's energy conservation program."

The motorsports community earlier sent a letter of appeal to Lotilla, through Undersecretary Peter Abaya, citing the importance and contributions of the racing industry to the country's economy. The letter was signed by local motorsports leaders.

UM Hawks barge into Naascu finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY OF MANILA FIRED AWAY from the opening buzzer to beat New Era, 91-72, and barge into the men's basketball finals of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM Gym yesterday.

It will be the Hawks' fifth straight championship appearance since the league was born in 2001.

"Our winning streak may have been cut this year (at 86 in a row) but I think it's going to be very hard to break our title winning run," said UM president Ernesto delos Santos, who has been in the sidelines every UM game.

The Hunters, who employed former PBA coach Adonis Tierra to turn things around this season, gave everything they had with hotshots Jeff de Guzman and William Ibay taking most of the scoring chores.

"UM is an established team and there is no shame losing to a better team," said Tierra, whose charges overachieved this season after languishing in the cellar the past years.

UM will thus face the winner of the St. Clare-STI semis battle today with the Saints —the only team to have dealt the Hawks a loss—enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage.

Gener Bernados led the charge for UM with 22 points, 12 rebounds and four assists, while Ryan Regalado turned in 17 points and four assists.

De Guzman unloaded 24 points, while Ibay added 13 for the Hunters, who also drew nine points and eight rebounds from Israel Naguit.

The scores (Srs):

UM 91—Bernados 22, Regalado 17, Santiago 12, Litonjua 12, Napiza 9, Facun 7, Maliksi 4, Bonus 4, Jamil 3, Delostrinos 2.

NEU 72—De Guzman 24, Ibay 13, Naguit 9, Maynes 9, Perlas 6, J. Dela Cruz 4, Lapid 4, Mabigat 3, A. Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 50-35, 70-49, 91-72

TATAK MARCOS
A DICTATOR'S LEGACY
plus:
Neil Gaiman, Superstar
NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI SA ABC INQ TV

Not just about boxing

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I'VE JUST SEEN THE BEST PICTURE OF the year.

That's the way it is to me.

"Cinderella Man" may not end up as Hollywood's best film this year. But to me, it is. I even rate it as one of the best films of all time alongside such classics like "Casablanca," "Citizen Kane," "Sound of Music," "Dead Poets Society," "Godfather," "Fiddler on The Roof" and "Scent of a Woman."

Ron Howard has given Steven Spielberg a fight for the best director of the year derby.

That's the way it is to me.

Sure "War of the Worlds" is superb but, alas, only in pyrotechnics—Spielberg's forte.

In "Cinderella Man," Howard is at his best. He's even better—very much better, I tell you—than Clint Eastwood in Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby."

Eastwood won his second Oscar director award last year for "Million Dollar Baby." He deserved it. OK, the film did not have much competition but, it was, more importantly, poetry from beginning to end.

But "Cinderella Man" is more than that, though.

The film is Picasso the cubist, a Paganini violin, Pavarotti doing Nessun Dorma.

Some didn't like the ending of "Million Dollar Baby."

With "Cinderella Man," nothing's wasted. Everything's in place. Picture-perfect. There's never been a film as beautiful as this one.

Russell Crowe is my best actor of the year.

Renee Zellwegger is my best actress of the year.

Ron Howard is my best director of the year.

If "Cinderella Man" doesn't win the Oscar's best picture award, fine. It won't be a defeat, even as it wouldn't be my first defeat, stats-wise.

I picked "I Am Sam" a couple of years ago to win but "Training Day" won.

I picked Sean Penn of "I Am Sam" best actor but Denzel Washington of "Training Day" won.

I got it right with "Gladiator" and Russell Crowe a while back.

You win some, you lose some.

Maybe, I am biased with "Cinderella Man" because it's a film about boxing?

Subconsciously, I might have been carried away by the poignant story of heavyweight James J. Braddock in "Cinderella Man." As James J. Braddock, Russell Crowe was in his usual element.

But when is Russell Crowe not in his best?

None. In fact, before I saw "I Am Sam," Russell Crowe was my choice of best actor in the film, "A Beautiful Mind." This Marlon Brando of his generation is miles ahead of the pack.

Russell Crowe is Humphrey Bogart forty, fifty, years ago.

Russell Crowe is Dustin Hoffman thirty, thirty-five, years ago.

Russell Crowe is Robert De Niro twenty, twenty-five, years ago.

Russell Crowe is Al Pacino fifteen, twenty, years ago.

And, yes, Renee Zellwegger. She loses the best actress race, I say it'd be a shame. As Russell Crowe's wife in "Cinderella Man," Renee Zellwegger has outdone herself. If she had you smitten in "Chicago," you'd fall for her totally in "Cinderella Man."

The "Cinderella Man" is a true story. That's as far as I can go. I hate squealing on a film's plot. Even when I was still reviewing films some years back, I never did that even just for once. Crazy. A writer tells his/her readers what the movie is all about, that's destroying the thrill reserved mainly to a moviegoer.

The trick is, through the years, I just tell my readers either to see or not to see a film.

So I command you now. Go catch "Cinderella Man" at Rockwell's Power Plant in Makati. It's so good a film it's showing in two Rockwell theaters.

Watching it will make you fall in love more with a boxer than boxing.

You might even wind up treating Manny Pacquiao's exploits as midget.

***

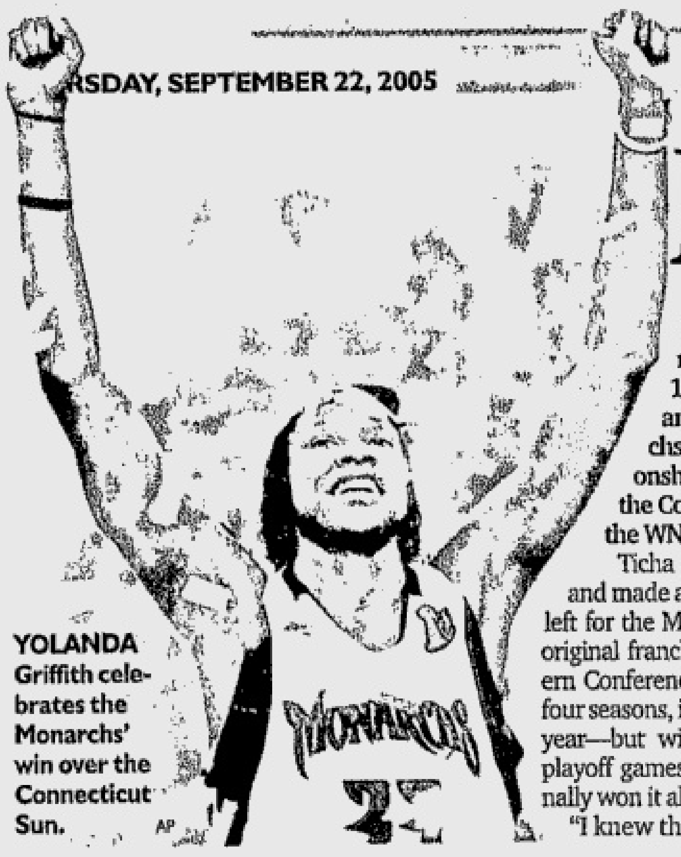
FASTBREAK. If it's true that Health Secretary Francisco "Pingkoy" Duque Jr. is being groomed for a post at the Philippine Sports Commission on a concurrent capacity, I say that's a welcome move. For one, Pingkoy's honesty is beyond compare. For another, Pingkoy will be a whiff of fresh air at the oftentimes controversy-wracked PSC.

***

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

INQBOX Question of the Week
September 21 Martial Law anniversary:
Do you agree that Ferdinand Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?
Win this *Inquirer shirt
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!!
Key in: inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Monarchs reign in WNBA



YOLANDA Griffith celebrates the Monarchs' win over the Connecticut Sun. AP

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—Yolanda Griffith had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and the Sacramento Monarchs won their first championship with a 62-59 victory over the Connecticut Sun in Game 4 of the WNBA Finals on Tuesday.

Ticha Penicheiro had six assists and made a free throw with 9.9 seconds left for the Monarchs, one of the WNBA's original franchises. They lost in the Western Conference finals in three of the past four seasons, including a loss to Seattle last year—but with seven victories in eight playoff games this season, Sacramento finally won it all with flair and force.

"I knew this was a special team when everybody reported to training camp," said Griffith, the finals MVP. "I knew then that we had something special. This has been the best season of my career. My teammates made this special. This is just unbelievable."

Nicole Powell scored 13 points, and Rebekkah Brunson had 12 for the Monarchs, who made another big second-half rally and held off another late charge by the Sun, who finished with the WNBA's best regular-season record.

Ashja Jones scored a playoff career-high 21 points, but Connecticut's stars struggled in the biggest game of the season. Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Nykesha Sales accounted for slightly less than half of the Sun's points during their play-off run, but they combined for 20 points on 8-of-28 shooting in Game 4.

Griffith, the veteran power forward who had never won a championship, went 1-for-6 in the first half, but scored six quick points in the second half with her usual tenacious inside play. Sacramento jumped to a 55-45 lead with an 11-3 run midway through the second half, with only Jones keeping the Sun close.

Connecticut made a late rally for the second straight game, pulling to 57-56 with 2:57 to play when the Monarchs tightened up. Griffith made a key deflection and hit two free throws with 1:44 left, but Katie Douglas hit a 3-pointer with 37 seconds to play.

Leading 61-59, the Monarchs ran down the clock and nearly turned over the ball before Penicheiro was fouled by McWilliams-Franklin with 9.9 seconds left. The eight-year veteran made one of two free throws to finish it.

Penicheiro addressed the near-sellout crowd, which was deafening in Arco Arena.

"I know it's been eight long years you guys have been with us, waiting patiently for this moment," Penicheiro said. "Now we're the champions. We wanted to celebrate in front of you guys. We wouldn't be standing right here if it wasn't for you."

After Houston and Los Angeles won the WNBA's first six titles from 1997-02, Sacramento is the league's third new champion in three seasons. Detroit won it all in 2003, and Seattle was the defending champion. *AP*

Cavite dribblers subdue Laguna, gain NBC finals

FAR EASTERN INSURANCE-BACKED Cavite beat Spring Cooking Oil-supported Laguna, 78-72, Tuesday night to move into the Northern Conference finals of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros.

Ex-PBA player Marvin Otiguerra waxed hot with eight triples en route to a 31-point explosion to help the Insurers sweep the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro in their best-of-three semifinal series.

Bacchus/Harbour Centre leveled its best-of-three quarterfinal series with Boy Bawang-backed Parañaque by winning, 73-71, in the other game.

Fil-Am guard Francis Rauschmayer and slotman Allan Gamboa combined for 30 points to power Bacchus/Harbour Centre to victory.

Ortiguerra started with three triples in the first quarter and then knocked in five more in the second and third periods as the Insurers repeated over the favored Cooking Oil Masters. The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar won 70-68 in Game 1.

Valencia and Mantawi opened last night their quarterfinal series in the Southern Conference of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The scores:

BACCHUS 73—Rauschmayer 17, Gamboa 13, Hardin 9, Enrile 7, Reroma 7, Cordero 6, Epondulan 6, Hudencial 4, Coyukang 2, Sta. Cruz 2, Chua 0, Pile 0.

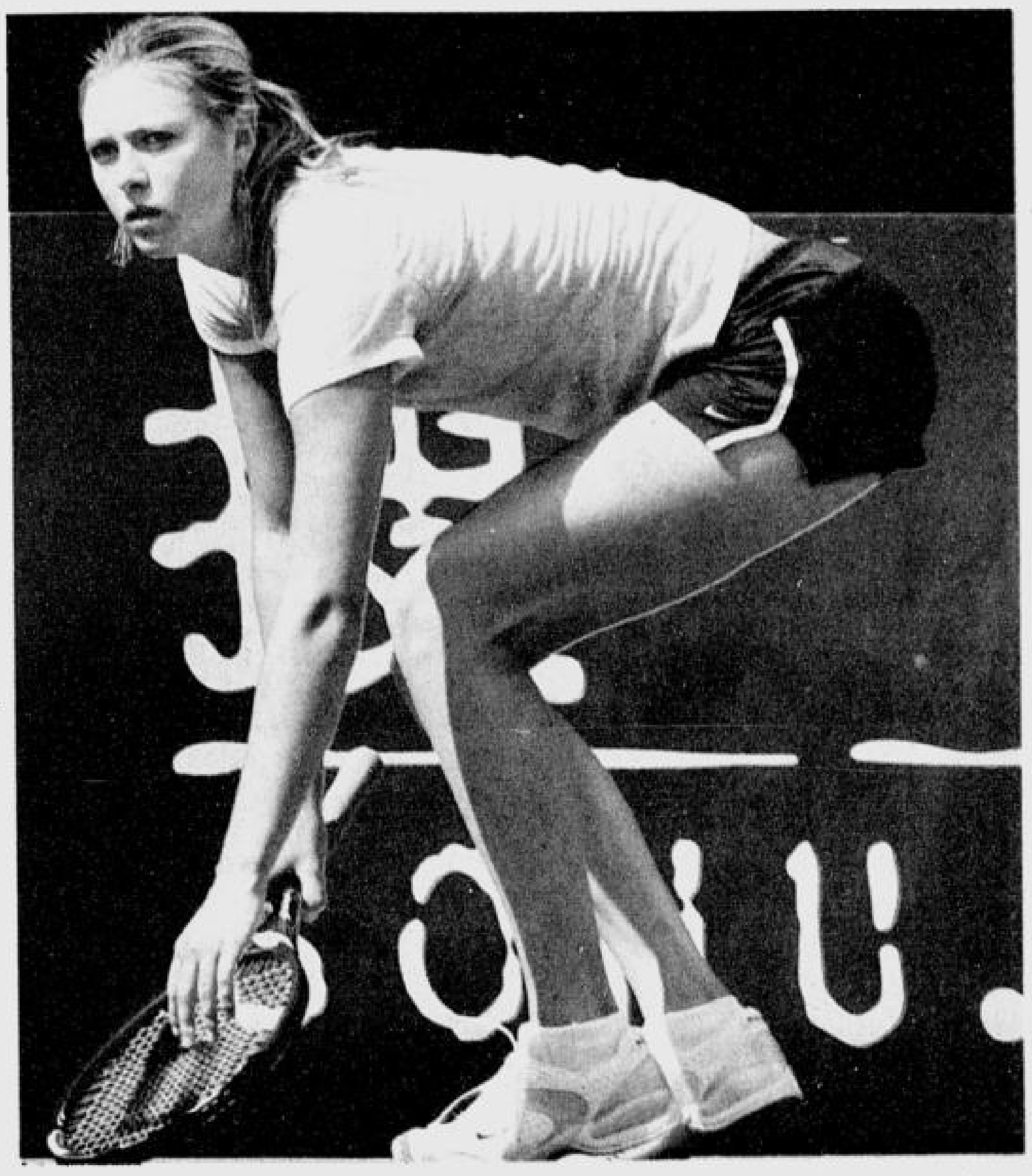
PARAÑAQUE 71—Marquez 19, Lopez 14, Tolentino 11, Guiyab 10, Bognot 5, Ruiz 5, Buendia 4, Yambao 3, Ollano 0.

Quarters: 23-19, 37-39, 51-57, 73-71.

CAVITE 78—Origuerra 31, Diaz 13, Coronel 12, Rodriguez 11, Basco 4, Estrada 4, Booker 2, Abadia 1, Yabut 0, Baluyot 0, Sierra 0, Bonus 0, Mopera 0.

LAGUNA 72—Domingo 11, Villamin 11, Latoreno 11, Proceso 6, Kalaw 6, Roda 6, Nuqui 5, Manuel 4, Mallari 4, Reyes 2, Corbin 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 26-17, 43-34, 57-55, 78-72.



TOP SEED. World number one player and China Open top seed Maria Sharapova during a training session at the Beijing Tennis Center yesterday. Sharapova begin's play today for the $585,000 top prize. AFP

Bata, 7 other Pinoy bets advance

NEW YORK—EIGHT FILIPINOS LED by Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante remained unbeaten Tuesday night in the 30th US Open 9-Ball Billiards championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Reyes, the 51-year-old pool wizard from Angeles City, clobbered Terry Dunn, 11-2, and will face in the next round John Schmidt, an 11-8 winner over Michael Staubes.

Bustamante, the former world No.1 player, downed Rocky Lane, 11-1, and Benny Conway Jr., 11-6.

The other unscathed Filipinos were Jose "Amang" Parica, former world champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Marlon Manalo, Warren Kiamco, Ramon "Maestro" Mistica and Santos Sambajon.

The US-based Parica, who recently finished second in the LA California 9-ball Open, outplayed David Hall, 11-4, and will next meet Tony Crosby, who beat Bryan Lando, 11-5.

Pagulayan beat Richard Burns, 11-3, and Chris Lambier, 11-2; Manalo crushed James Hennesse, 11-0; Kiamco defeated Chuck Raulston, 11-10, Mistica whipped Ed Scott, 11-1, and Sambajon outplayed Bill Honday, 11-2.

Two Filipino entries fell to the loser's bracket. Al Lapena lost to Richard Broumpton, 3-11, while Deomark "Deo" Alpajora bowed to Shawn Putnam, 5-11.

The San Leandro, California-based Alpajora won his initial match Tuesday morning against Philippe Triplett, 11-9. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Bonds strikes 706th

NEW YORK—MOISES Alou hit a three-run go-ahead home run in the ninth inning and Barry Bonds belted career homer No. 706 as the San Francisco Giants edged the Washington Nationals, 4-3, in National League play Tuesday at the RFK Stadium.

The triumph brought the Giants to within five games of first place San Diego in the NL West, after Colorado hammered the Padres, 20-1.

It was the first road game of the season for Bonds and he responded with his third home run of the season, a monster shot into the upper deck off Livan Hernandez in the fourth inning.

He was also walked in the ninth just before Alou hit his game-winning blast.

Bonds trails just Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the all-time home run list.

"As long as it goes over the yellow line, it doesn't matter," said Bonds. *Reuters*

Murakami shares lead, but RP tumbles to 4th

NARITA, JAPAN—ARTEMIO MURAKAMI GAINED A SHARE of the individual lead with a three-under-par 69 but Juvic Pagunsan settled for a 71 despite a blazing start as the Philippines slid to fourth, 11 strokes off Australia halfway through the 22nd Nomura Cup at the Narita Golf Club here Wednesday.

Jay Bayron blew a three-under par card after six holes and needed to scramble for a birdie-par windup to card a 73 and count for the team's three-under 213 output for a 435 total.

Australia, which shot a fiery 203 Tuesday to seize control, slowed down a bit with a 211 as only Korean Lee Woojoon went under-par with a 67.

But the defending champion remained at the helm at 414, three strokes ahead of new pursuer New Zealand, which turned in the day's best score of 205.

Josh Geary fired a bogey-free 67 while Brad Iles shot an eagle-spiked 68 to power the Kiwis to second place past the Koreans, who settled for 211 for a 419 total, six shots ahead of the Filipinos.

Murakami birdied the par-4 No. 1 for the second straight day and although he failed to match his opening 67 Tuesday after a day-long struggle with a new driver, the 22-year-old former national champion used a near-impeccable short game to preserve a round of 35-34.

He finished with four birdies against a bogey and shared the individual lead with Lee of Australia at 136, eight-under.

With Australia hanging tough and New Zealand making its move, RP team coach Bong Lopez and team captain Gen. Roberto Sabularse said they hope their wards will finally play as a team in the last two rounds.

"They just couldn't make the putts," said Lopez, adding he remained hopeful of a big Pagunsan comeback. "It's actually easy for them to shoot low scores here if only they could sink those putts."

Erwin Vinluan closed out with a second straight 74 and did not count for RP this time.

Murakami said all's not lost, however.

"It would have been better if the team is in the lead. But we'll try again. There are still two rounds left and I hope Juvic will finally get his rhythm as well as Jay and Erwin," said Murakami.

MURAKAMI: It would've been better if the team is ahead.

Despite slipping to fourth, the Philippines stayed ahead of its SEA Games rivals, with Thailand limping with a 217 and a 431 and Malaysia falling a shot farther back at 432 after a 215.

Host Japan struggled with a 222 for a 438.

The RP golfers, who started the round nine shots off the pace, actually made a run at the Aussies early as Pagunsan, who didn't count for the team with a 75 in the first round, came through with an eagle on the par-5 No. 3 and Bayron went three-under after six holes to complement Murakami's two-birdie stint in the first five holes.

But they failed to sustain that momentum on the tricky putting surface of the up-and-down layout with Pagunsan dropping strokes on No. 6 and 9 and Bayron taking a double bogey on the par-4 No. 9.

SPORTSWATCH

AF3 inks deal with Tom's Toyota

WITH still two rounds left in the 2005 Asian Formula Three season, organizers of the series have already inked a three-year contract with a reputable engine manufacturer that will supply a uniform engine to all the participants in next year's races. Under the terms of the contract signed recently by AF3 Corp. chair Eddie Peña and engine manufacturer Tom's Toyota, the firm will supply engines with the same specifications to all the competing teams for the next three years, ensuring a level playing field. "We are happy to be renewing our relationship with Tom's," said Peña. "The engines will be leased to all competitors at an extremely competitive cost and this will mean tighter competition while keeping costs in check." The engines to be supplied by Tom's Toyota will conform to the specifications mandated by the Federation Internationale d'Automobile, the governing body of world racing. Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for more details.

NCBA nips Olivarez College

THE NATIONAL College of Business and Arts Wildcats banked on a key defensive play in the endgame to nip Olivarez College, 93-91, yesterday in the fourth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center. Jandy Ruales stole the ball off a dribbling Adrian Adriano and passed it on to Eric Tingzon, who scored on a lay-up with still a second left as the Wildcats notched the pulsating win. Ruales banged in a game-high 31 points and came into the picture after Tingzon turned the ball over when he missed a triple earlier. Ruales and the 5-foot-9 Tingzon, who chipped in 24 points delivered the Wildcats to their sixth triumph in 10 matches, moving them to third spot behind the league-leading Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals and the second-running La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots. The victory enabled the Wildcats to make up for their 87-97 setback at the hands of the St. Francis Doves, the other day. The Doves notched their fifth victory against four losses.

Inter-school taekwondo Sept. 24

AROUND 1,500 jins are expected to vie for honors in the 2005 Petron national inter-school taekwondo championships on Sept. 24-25 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the tourney is open to all schools affiliated with the PTA. Among these schools are La Salle (Taft, Zobel, Lipa and Dasmarinas), UP, UST, Ateneo, FEU, UE, San Beda (Alabang, Taytay and Manila), Letran, CSA, Sienna College, St. Theresa's, Lourdes School (Mandaluyong and QC), OBMC, University of Batangas, PNPA, Diliman Preparatory School, St. Anthony, St. Vincent School, UPIS, Juan Sumulong High, Rizal High and Batangas State University.

Executive chess at Pearl Plaza

THE SEPTEMBER leg of the 2005 On-Line Care National Executive Chess Championships will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the fourth level of the Pearl Plaza Mall in Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Parañaque City. The tournament is divided into Group A (those who have NCFP Active rating of 1900 and above and those who want to play in the higher group) and Group B (those who have NCFP active rating of 1899 and below and those who have still no rating). The tournament is sponsored by the Makati-based On-Line Care Medex Corp. of NCFP vice president Ed Madrid. A total of eight monthly qualifiers per leg will be selected to play in the semifinals scheduled in December. The grand finals will be held in January 2006. The first 2 legs was won by engineers Robert Arellano and Ali Branzuela in Group A and CPA Xavier Xerxes Busig and engineer Cecil Cuevas in Group B. Call 541-5761/09169118449, 0921-5307050, 704-9775/09194782209, 09157628666.

NCA 7-stag derby finals today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby gets underway at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum with top quality fights lined up beginning at 7 tonight. Wild Wing Sundance BJ Firefly of Rep. Ronnie Puno and noted breeder Danilo Jiao of Rizal leads the race with three points. With two points each are SMRC Gold Makati Col. Oct. 12 5-Stag of Efren Canlas, McKinley Firebird of Rep. Jing Paras and Biboy Enriquez, Binangonan and Binangonan Balbina I of Gov. Ito Ynares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Firefly Sundance 14 of Jun Santiago, Mulawin AA VGB of Rudy Albano, PCAP WTJ Makati Col of Lito Orillaza and Mulawin B VGB of Frank Berin. The next NCA 7-Stag Derby starts on Oct. 4. Call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Tiger takes 7th player of year award

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—WITH seven weeks left in the season, Tiger Woods clinched the PGA Player of the Year, a points-based award handed out by the PGA of America since 1948.

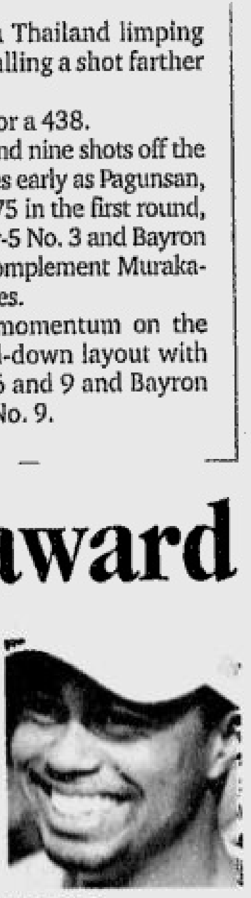
It was the seventh time in nine years Woods has won the award. Tom Watson won it six times during an eight-year span.

The PGA Player of the Year award gives 30 points for majors, 20 points for The Players Championship and 10 points for all other US PGA Tour victories. It also awards as many as 20 points depending on where a player finishes on the money list and in scoring average.

Woods cannot be caught because he won two majors, which carries a 50-point bonus.

The only other players to win the award since Woods' first full season in 1997 were Mark O'Meara, a double major winner in 1998; and Vijay Singh, who won the US PGA Championship and eight other tournaments last year.

The US PGA Tour's award is a vote of the players and will be decided after the Tour Championship in November. *AP*



WOODS

‘Rehearsing’ for accidents, tricky situations before they happen

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE’S A NEW SHOW ON AXN THAT we’ve decided to watch regularly after we first viewed it last Sunday, Sept. 11, at 9 a.m. Titled “Worst-Case Scenario,” the how-to program teaches viewers what to do when all sorts of potentially dangerous situations present themselves.

- Last Sunday, the first case involved an imminent bike crash. How do you avoid getting injured when your bike rushes downhill into a wall?

First, the show advised all bikers to use helmets and sneakers with rubber soles. Next, it taught viewers how to devise an emergency braking action, then jump off the bike and fall to the ground, unharmed.

- The second worst-case scenario involved two female mountain climbers racing to rescue a supposedly injured climber from the sheer side of a cliff by first climbing up to where he was, then rapelling down, with him in tow.

The winner edged the other climber out by following rules more rigorously. The program informed viewers that this was of the essence particularly in the wilds, where unexpected risks frequently crop up.

Later in the show, viewers were taught how to use a defibrillator. Then, a young woman was given tips on how to drive a big jeep over huge boulders without rolling over.

- This was followed by another worst-case scenario for drivers: What would you do if the driver of the vehicle in front of you suddenly passes out?

First, you honk your horn. If he doesn’t wake up, you should drive in front of him, slow down, and wait for the vehicle to hit your rear bumper.

- The next case was of particular interest to card players: How do you spot a card cheat? To answer that question, the show staged a card game to which two “cheats” were invited. The devious strangers proceeded to beat the shirts and pants off their clueless opponents.

After the tricksters were exposed, the program then detailed how they had pulled the wool over their opponents’ eyes: They hid cards under the table; they “read” a card face from its reflection on the surface of a cup of coffee; they cued each other with subtle eye movements, etc.

How to foil these and other card-shark ploys?

Play on high tables, change cards after every round—and don’t play with strangers.

- Toward the end of the telecast, the show taught viewers how to “read” road signs with particularly inscrutable symbols on them.
- The program finale was a videotape that recorded a 250-lb deer’s attack on a hapless hunter. The victim almost died from the flurry of hoof-blows that the huge deer rained down on him.

What turned the tide for the victim was his sheer determination not to give up. In time, the deer became exhausted, and the hunter got away.

We appreciated the points that “Worst-Case Scenario” raised, and you could find the show useful and interestingly, too. So, if you want to “rehearse” what to do in accidents, and tricky situations before they happen, why not watch AXN’s newest show?

Cine Europa 8

EXPERIENCE Europe through cinema at Cine Europa 8 from today till Oct. 2 at Shangri-La Plaza. The event unreels with an invitational screening of “Millions” (UK) and “Twinni” (Austria).

Other features in the film fest are “Villa de Roses” (Belgium), “Buttoners” (Czech Republic), “Dog Nial Clipper” (Finland), “The Spanish Apartment” (France), “Kroko” (Germany), “A Man Not Wanted” (Italy), “I Love to Love” (The Netherlands), “Dying to Go Home” (Portugal), “Foreign Women” (Spain) and “Faithless” (Sweden). —Quite a cinematic travelogue.

Call 6333-2227 or log on to www.delphi.cee.ev.int or www.shangrila-plaza.com. Cine Europa 8 is presented by the European Union and Shangri-La Plaza.

Dena Fernandez

AT 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 28, the CCP’s Filipino Artist Series 2005 presents marimba soloist Dena Fernandez in concert at the Little Theater. Assisting artist is Lourdes de Leon Gregorio. Call 832-3704.

‘The Perfect Man’

IN THE romantic comedy, “The Perfec

REHEARSING/ A22

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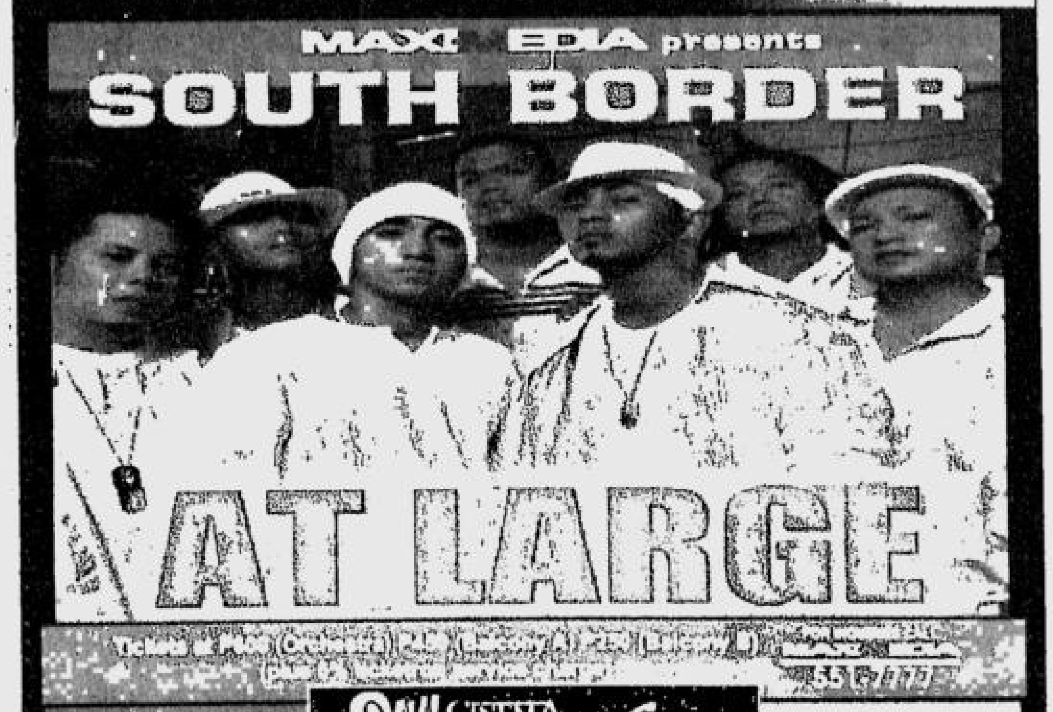

SM CINEMA CENTERstage

NORTH EDSA
South Border
AT LARGE
October 7, 2005
8:00pm/ Cinema 1

MEGAMALL
TRUMPETS
LITTLE MERMAID
September 13-17, 20-24
Cinema 10

SM movietime PREMIER

MEGAMALL
DUBAI
Cinema 2, 3, & 4
September 27, 2005
7:30 pm

MANILA
UNDISCOVERED
Cinema 6
September 30, 2005
7:30 pm

SM movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00FS/12:30MF/03:15/06:05
08:20LFS/00:00LMF/11:15END
2 PERFECT CATCH
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
11:30FS/11:40MF/01:38/03:36/05:34/07:32
09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END
3 CINDERELLA MAN
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DARK WATER
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM
7 LAND OF THE DEAD
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 THE CAVE
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
7 DARK WATER
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 THE CAVE
12 RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DARK WATER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 PERFECT CATCH
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DARK WATER

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DARK WATER
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 DARK WATER
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 CONSTANT GARDENER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM
9 THE CAVE
10 CINDERELLA MAN

SM SAN LAZARO
1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DARK WATER
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
4 DARK WATER

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 RED EYE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 DARK WATER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 THE CAVE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE CAVE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RED EYE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 VALIANT
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 SKY HIGH
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 ICE PRINCESS
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CAVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

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LITTLE
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINDERELLA MAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00 LMF

2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
MTRCB PG-13
1:25, 4:00 LMF

3 THE PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE DARK WATER
MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

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SCHEDULE OF FILMS

September 22
7:00pm Millions, Twinni

September 23
1:00pm Step by Step
4:00pm Villa des Roses
7:00pm Buttoners
10:00pm Dog Nail Clipper

September 24
1:00pm The Spanish Apartment
4:00pm Kroko
7:00pm I Love to Love
10:00pm A Man Not Wanted

September 25
1:00pm Twinni
4:00pm Millions
7:00pm Extranjeras
10:00pm Faithless

September 26
4:00pm Twinni
7:00pm Step by Step
10:00pm Villa des Roses

September 27
4:00pm Buttoners
7:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
10:00pm The Spanish Apartment

September 28
4:00pm A Man Not Wanted
7:00pm Dying To Go Home
10:00pm Kroko

September 29
1:00pm I Love to Love
4:00pm Faithless
7:00pm A Man Not Wanted
10:00pm Extranjeras

September 30
1:00pm Villa Des Roses
4:00pm Step by Step
7:00pm The Spanish Apartment
10:00pm Buttoners

October 1
1:00pm Extranjeras
4:00pm Dying To Go Home
7:00pm Kroko
10:00pm I Love to Love

October 2
1:00pm Millions
4:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
7:00pm Faithless
10:00pm Dying To Go Home

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POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	CINDERELLA MAN PG13 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:45	DARK WATER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
LAND OF THE DEAD R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	BLADE OF THE ROSE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	PERFECT CATCH GP 11:35,1:45,3:55, 6:05,8:15,10:25

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
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GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
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	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
PERFECT CATCH 12:50 / 3:30 / 6:10 / 8:50	PERFECT CATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9.20
LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 / 3.20 / 5:20 / 7.20 / 9:20	CINDERELLA MAN 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
DARK WATER 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
CONSTANT GARDENER 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00	RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9.30	LOVESTRUCK 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	❹ LOVESTRUCK 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❷ DARK WATER 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❺ A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
❸ LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ADMU vs UP Wom. 11:30 am - Adu vs FEU Wom. 1:30 pm September 22 Thursday ADMU vs UE Srs 4 pm | NCAA GAME 3 If necessary SSC-R vs SBC Jrs. 2 pm September 23 Friday CSJL VS PCU Srs 4 pm
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Catching up with my old friend, Aga Muhlach

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S ALWAYS A JOY TO SEE AGA MUHLACH. Except for becoming even more gorgeous through the years, "Morning" (his pet name) has not changed a bit. Since I spent most of my teenage years hanging out with his cousin **Liezl (Martinez)** I practically watched him grow up. When we met for lunch recently, I brought along an old photo of ours (taken way before his "Bagets" days). We both had a good laugh recapturing memories. Aga remembers every little thing. He is such a "*totoong tao*" that I sometimes forget how famous he is. That eye and heart for detail Aga also made evident in his latest movie "Dubai." He revealed, "We had 12 revisions of the script. I gave my creative input to the story. I wanted to make sure that every scene will leave its mark. It's not your typical love triangle. There are no cutesy scenes. The characters blurt out what they really feel. No more beating around the bush." Based on the film's full trailer I must say that the whole gamut of emotions Aga showed are so real. You can almost taste them! Since he has limited himself to do only 1 movie a year, you can be sure that he gave his all to "Dubai." Aga ponders "I am eager to hear what critics will say about the film. I am confident that they will like what they see."

'My wife, my life'

I asked Aga if he sees himself in the character (Raffy, an OFW supporting a brother) he portrays in the movie. He says, 'Just like Raffy I give and give and give. But I don't spoil my siblings. Instead of just giving them food, I taught them how to fish, so to speak. Even with my son Igi, I support him in his education but I don't give him gas or gimmick money. I want to teach him discipline. Frankly, I got shocked when he decided to get a place of his own. So I told him, *ginawa niya 'yun dapat kaya niyang panindigan*."

What if he ever gets trapped in a love triangle with his brother and a woman in real life, just like in "Dubai?" Aga quipped, "I will always give way to my brother. If I were still single *kahit ilang* girlfriend *ko pa ang gusto niya, kaniyang kaniya na*. But now that I'm married, no way will I give up my wife for my brother or for anybody. My wife is my life!"

Isn't he wary of newcomers, like his co-star **John Lloyd Cruz**? "I'm still here. All-praise *ako* for John Lloyd. All newcomers should be like him. *Binibigyan niyang pansin ang pag-arte.Di siya nagiinarte*! I have a road to follow; John Lloyd has his own. Even when I turn 50, I will still be Aga Muhlach." Then he flashed his signature be-dimpled smile. Even if he has matured as an actor, he still looks "bagets" as ever.

Phoemela the waif

WONDER why **Phoemela Baranda** has become a waif? The supermodel-turned-TV host told me it was due to stress. "I feel like I'm inside a pressure cooker now that I'm doing the showbiz segment of TV Patrol," she sighed. "I welcome the challenge but I'm still adjusting. I write my own stories. **Pinapagana ko talaga ang utak ko**. It's mentally draining; that's why I lost so much weight!" As I always say, sometimes we get tired using our brain, so we use our body instead."

I came across an old song, "The Greatest View" by a foreign band called "Silver Chair." The chorus struck me as sounding exactly like our very own Cueshe's hit song, "Stay." Is it just coincidence, or did Cueshe copy Silver Chair's composition? Music is the universal language, all right, but some copyright laws could be lost in "translation," huh?

Recipe for joy

IC and I immensely enjoyed being guests on "Mobile Kusina." Our episode will be aired tomorrow, 10 a.m., on GMA7. The show's ever-charming host, **Cristine Jacobs-Sandejas**, made us feel instantly at home. Her company was worth the long trip to Bataan. Between takes, I teased Cristine (whom I fondly call "Annette Bening" because of their striking resemblance), asking if she didn't miss her controversial "Eat Bulaga" days when she was linked to Vic Sotto. She laughed out loud "Gosh! That's ages ago. It seems like another lifetime already!" Seriously, she said she was "blissfully" happy with her husband Paco and their kids. "This is the life I've always wanted."

The "Mobile Kusinera" has found the right ingredients for real joy and she gladly shared her recipe with me. Since it's my birthday today, maybe it will come in handy if Cupid has something cooking for me. I wonder what love will taste like as my heart turns another year crazier.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com)

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1	LAND OF THE DEAD	1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2	PERFECT CATCH	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 GP
3	DARK WATER	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4	CONSTANT GARDENER	PG-13

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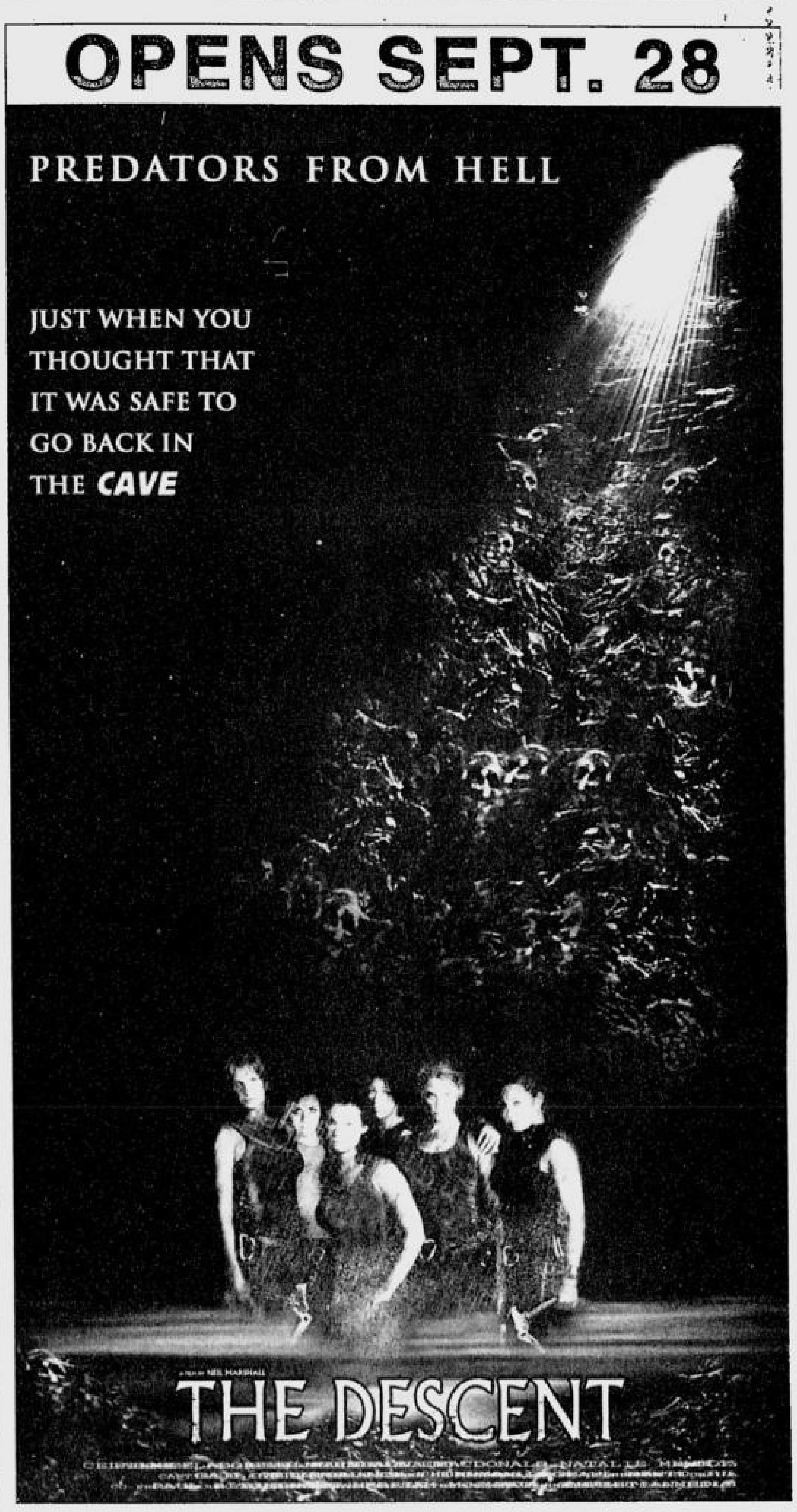
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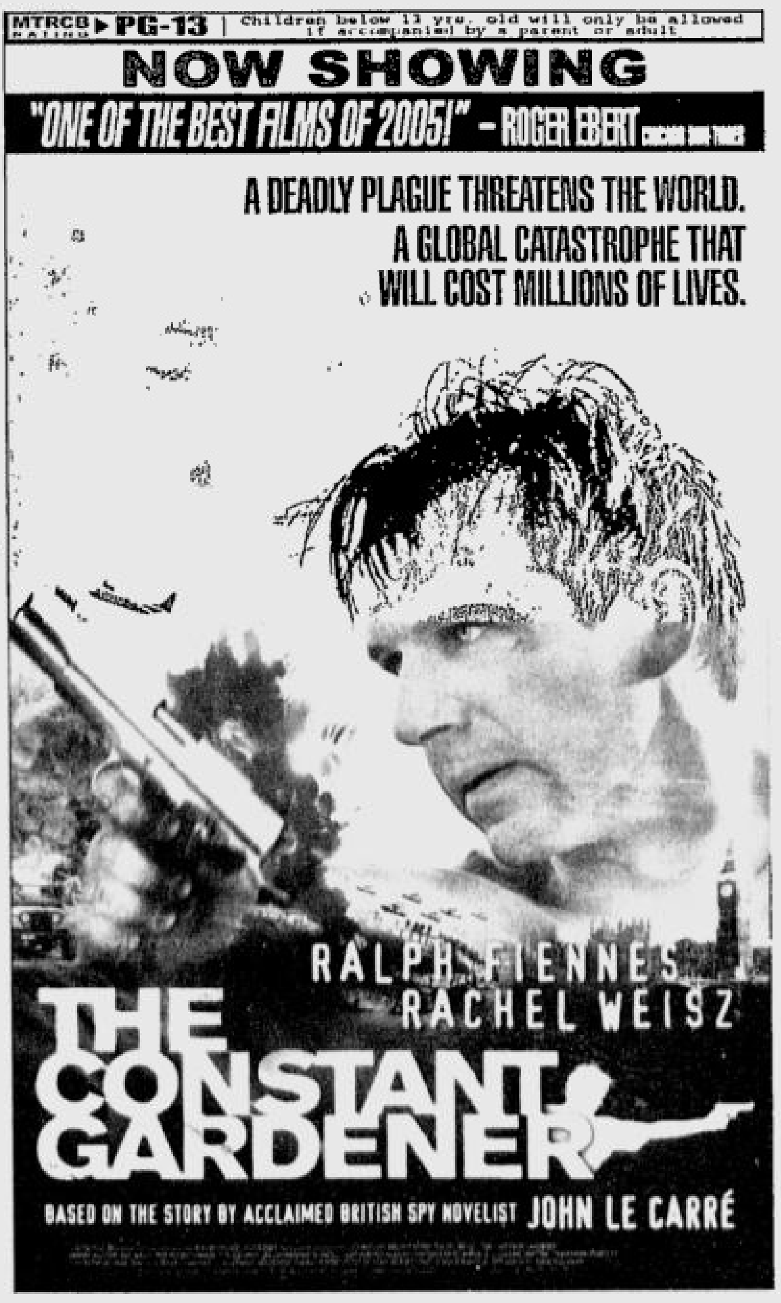
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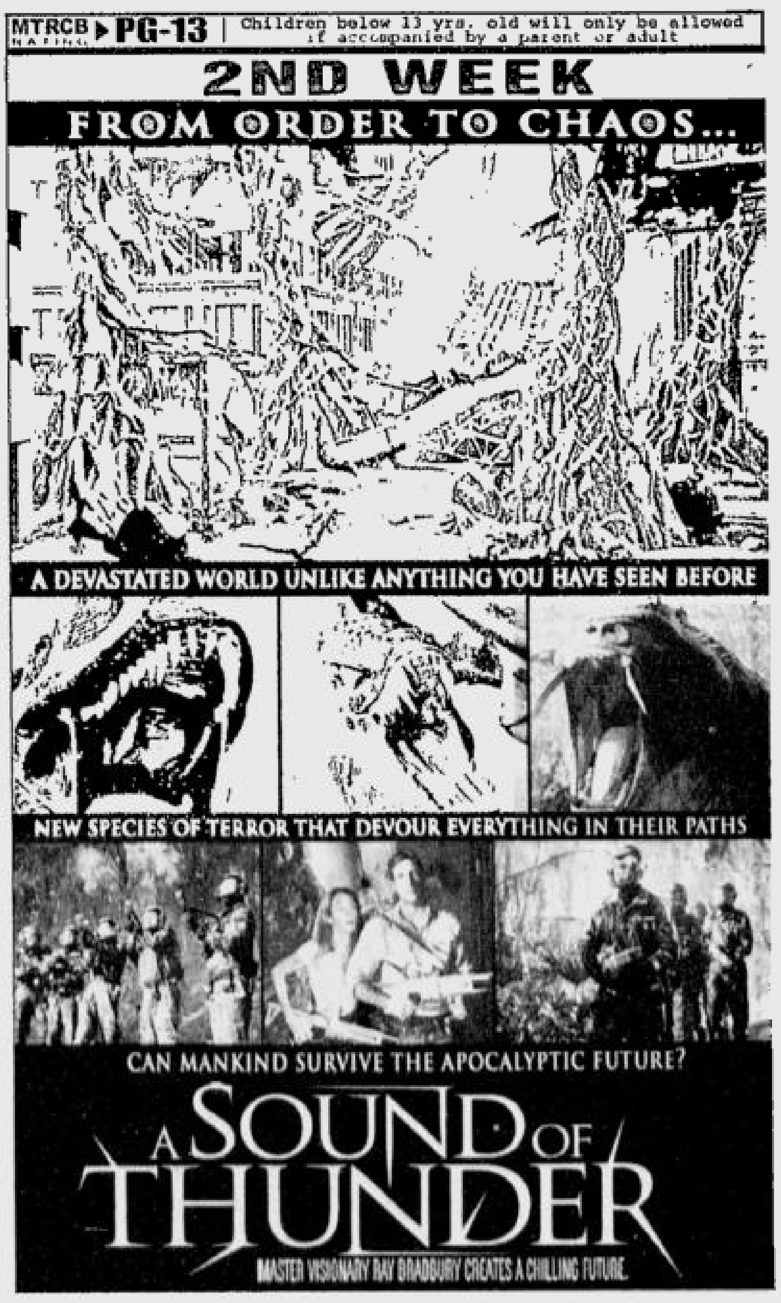
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1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN PG13
2 (DOLBY) THE CONSTANT GARDENER
3 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH GP
4 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD R13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) DARK WATER PG13

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1 (DDS) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 (SDDS) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 GOLD (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER
6 GOLD (SDDS) DARK WATER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
8 (DOLBY STEREO) SOUND OF THUNDER
9 (DOLBY STEREO) BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 (DOLBY STEREO) LOVE STRUCK

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1 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
2 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY) CONSTANT GARDENER

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor.
Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 DARK WATER

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street,
Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
2 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) THE PERFECT CATCH
4 (DOLBY) LONG WEEKEND

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DARK WATER
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE STRUCK
5 CONSTANT GARDENER

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 WEDDING CRASHER
2 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 (DOLBY) RED EYE
3 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHER
4 LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) RED EYE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 ELVIST HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
3 CRUSH
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2 LONGEST YARD

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
6 SOUND OF THUNDER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX) RED EYE
4 LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE
4 (DTS) DUKES OF HAZZARD

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) THE EYE INFINITY
2 TIKIM
3 INIT NG DUGO
4 (DTS) ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 WEDDING CRASHER
3 (DTS) LONG WEEKEND
4 LIPSTICK
5 LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LONGEST YARD
2 DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 RED EYE
4 LOVE STRUCK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY) NOTE BOOK
2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.0489

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SKELETON KEY
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 LONGEST YARD

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 KAKAIBANG KARISMA
2

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HILARY DUFF
THE PERFECT MAN
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Solar Entertainment Corporation

IN THEATERS SEPT. 28

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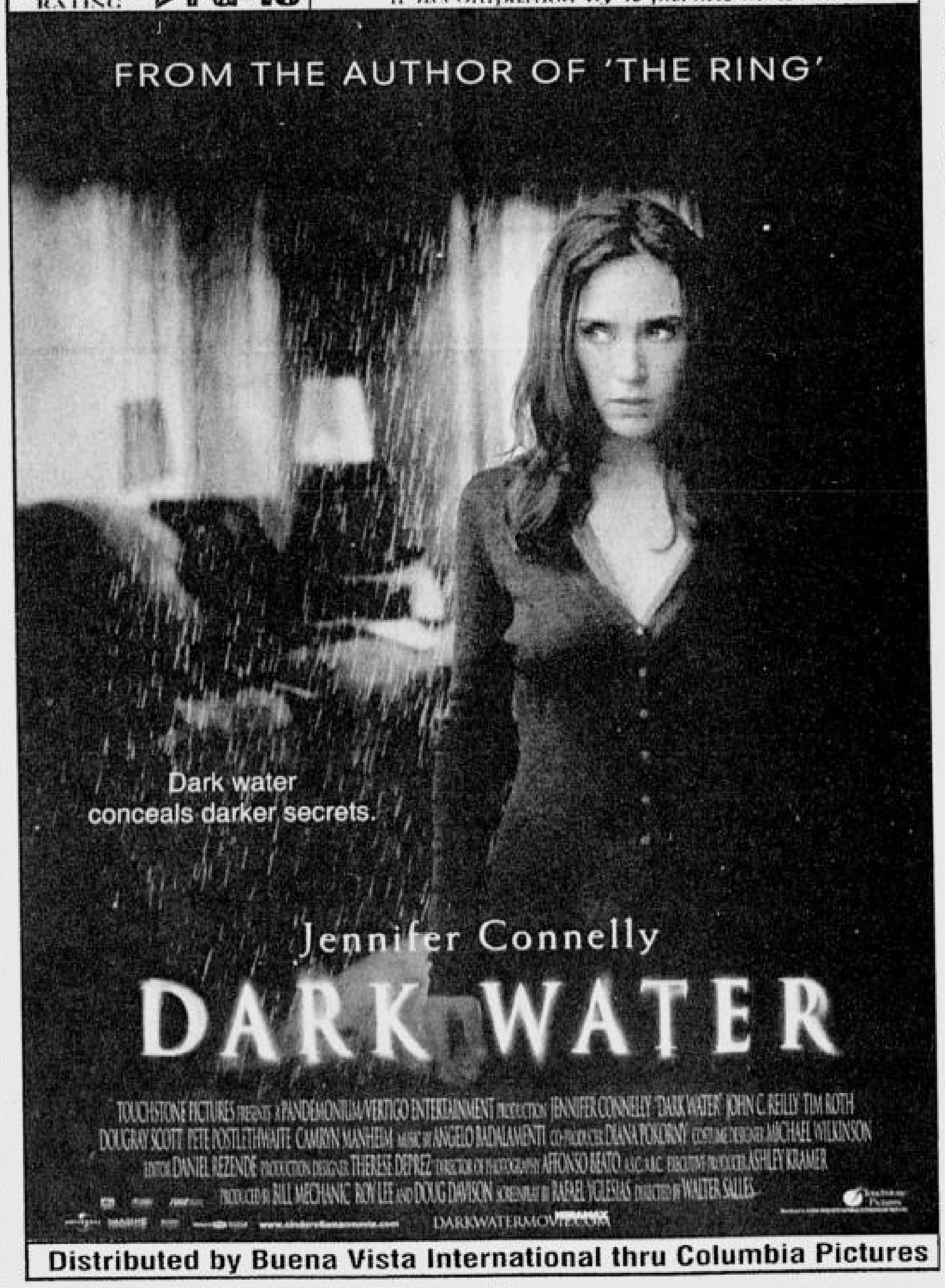
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Dark water conceals darker secrets.
Jennifer Connelly
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2	BLADE OF THE ROSE - PG13	11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

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4	DARK WATER PG13	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
5	PERFECT CATCH GP	11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25

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H'wood or bust

From page A24

by crook, that I am going to Hollywood.

Are you ready to start from scratch in Hollywood?

I competed with only 14 actors in this contest. In Hollywood, I know I'll be up against hundreds.

Are you prepared for the proverbial casting couch?

Hahaha! If they'll give me $20 million for a movie, they can do anything they want with me.

JULIA CLARETE

What was the biggest challenge for you—kissing Pinky?

That wasn't difficult at all because Pinky and I knew it was just a job.

The dramatic monologue and the multiple personality exercises were hard. Also, the comedy challenge.

Was the show also "the biggest scare" of your life?

My biggest fear was disappointing myself. It was an internal struggle for me.

What are your strengths and weaknesses as an actor?

I could be temperamental. But on this show, I found out that I could be so focused, it's easy to brush aside any distractions.

Who was the biggest threat?

Everyone intimidated me.

Are you ready to start from scratch in Hollywood?

It hurts that I have to leave "Eat Bulaga." But yes, I'm willing to start all over again.

Are you prepared for the proverbial casting couch?

Hahaha! Maybe I'll bring a knife!

'Rehearsing' for . . .

From page A20

Man," teenager Holly Hamilton (**Hilary Duff**) is tired of moving every time her single mom Jean (**Heather Locklear**) has another personal meltdown over yet another second-rate guy. To distract her mother from her latest bad choice, Holly conceives the perfect plan for the perfect man—an imaginary man who will romance Jean and boost her shaky self-esteem. The film opens in town on Sept. 28.

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2 DARK WATER
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 THE PERFECT CATCH
7 WILD SIDE
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
5 THE PERFECT CATCH
6 BLADE ROSE
7 DARK WATER

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2 THE CROW 4
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
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6 THE PERFECT CATCH
7 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
8 LOVESTRUCK

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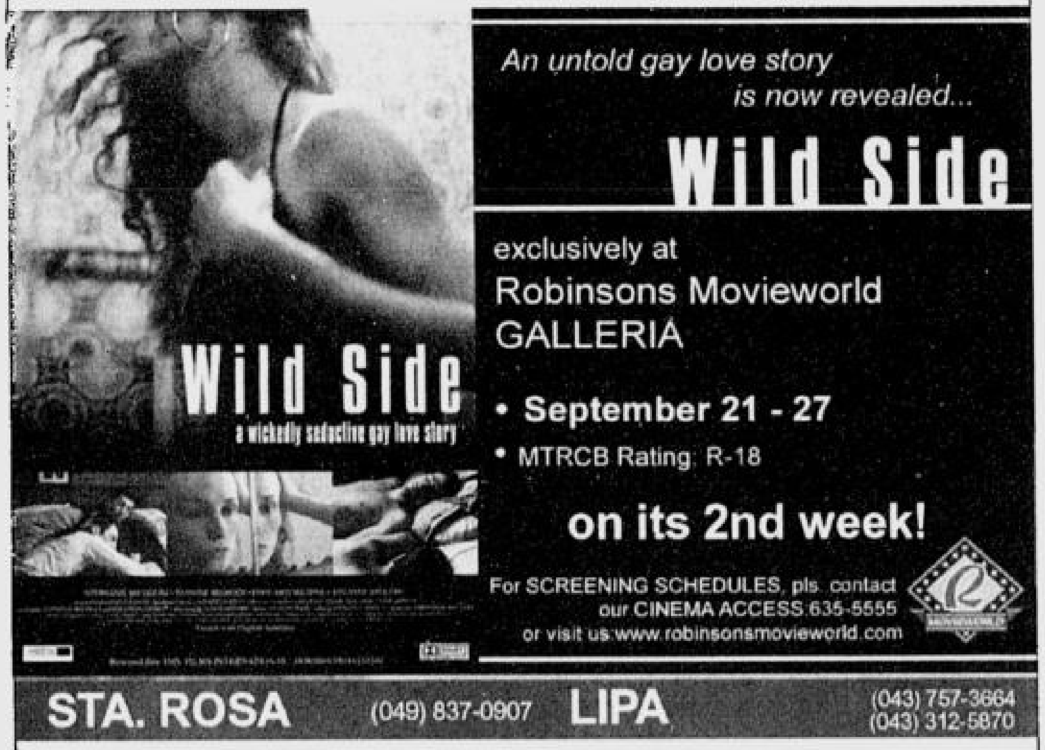
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER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2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 CINDERELLA MAN
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3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
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3 THE CAVE
4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 DARK WATER

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3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 THE CAVE
5 THE LONGEST YARD
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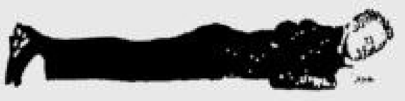

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 THX DARK WATER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RED EYE	5 CINDERELLA MAN	6 LAND OF THE DEAD	7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CONSTANT GARDENER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX LAND OF THE DEAD GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFECT CATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CONSTANT GARDENER GUARANTEED SEATS	
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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JULIA Clarete: It hurts to leave "Eat Bulaga."

Hollywood or bust!

TAKE FIVE

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHILE other Asians (like Jacky Chan and Gong Li) have crossed over to mainstream Hollywood cinema, Pinoys are still waiting in the wings.

The ABC 5 reality show, "Hollywood Dream," seeks to rectify this by giving a homegrown star the necessary push—including a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) card; meetings with Hollywood agents, casting directors and other industry big shots; roles in two upcoming movies ("Wrinkles" and "UN Murders"); and a walk-on part in the long-running CBS soap opera, "As the World Turns."

US movie industry people interviewed earlier on the show—including Fil-Am writer-producer-director Romeo Joven, casting exec Mike Fenton and director Mark Farman—said studios were always on the lookout for actors with the triple whammy.

"Looks, talent and charisma," to be exact. Add chutzpah, and the quest's two finalists, Raymond Bagatsing and Julia Clarete, seem well-equipped, indeed. In fact, they are bound for Los Angeles, California, next month for the grand finale.

> At stake in ABC 5's reality talent search is a precious Screen Actors Guild card that the top two contenders can't wait to get their hands on

RAYMOND BAGATSING

What was the biggest challenge for you, being already a seasoned actor?

I may be more experienced, but I went against younger actors who gave it their all—and they were all good. I didn't go in there thinking I was better than anyone because that would have made me complacent.

You called the show "the biggest scare" of your life?

It was scary not only because of the possibility of getting eliminated but also because the feedback I got from the judges wasn't encouraging. The entire experience humbled me. I realized there were so many things still that I needed to improve. My mind-set was, if we are going to Hollywood, you'd better tell me what's wrong with me now, while I can still work on it.

What are your strengths and weaknesses as an actor?

I think I'm a natural actor. But because this was a contest, my competitive spirit made me give 150 percent, making me look self-conscious and studied.

Who was the biggest threat?

This changed with each new episode and challenge.

Among the final six, Jamie Wilson—because he's very talented and experienced; Rafael Rosel because he's young, handsome, promising ... and he's hungry for it. Roxie Barcelo looks like an ingénue, but she's very deep. Pinky Amador is the *lola* of the group, but she's one classy and down-to-earth lady. Julia was the most consistent. I'm more than happy to be one of the final two. Even if Julia gets the SAG card, I'm cool with it because I know, by hook or

HOLLYWOOD/ A22

RAYMOND Bagatsing: Biggest scare of his life.

ROUNDUP

Globe-trotting 'Ebolusyon'

VIA an e-mail from New York, filmmaker Lav Diaz informed INQUIRER Entertainment that "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" will be screened at the Viennale Film Festival in Austria, the House of World Cultures in Germany and at the Flanders International Film Festival in Belgium in October and November.

In Italy's Torino Film Festival next month, a retrospective of Diaz's works will be shown: "Ebolusyon," "Batang West Side," "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo," including his new work-in-progress, "Heremias."

Also scheduled in Torino is a tribute to Lino Brocka.

'Masahista' comes home

THE SEPT. 14 issue of Screen magazine, which covered the Toronto International Film Festival, broke this piece of good news: "France's Swift Production Distribution has moved quickly to pick up Filipino director Brillante Mendoza's 'The Masseur (Masahista)' for France and French-speaking Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland (all rights). The deal was negotiated for Swift Production by Didier Costet and Ferdinand Lapuz of Ignatius Films Canada for Gee Entertainment Productions."

Meanwhile, the film finally makes its Philippine premiere this Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Cine Adarna in UP Diliman, as closing movie for the 5th Eksperimento Festival of Film Video and New Media.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Ready to date again

NEW YORK—Jennifer Aniston says she's doing well and ready to date.

Aniston appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Monday [Tuesday in Manila]. In one of her first TV interviews since filing for divorce from Brad Pitt earlier this year, Aniston said, "I'm doing so well. It's the media that won't move on. You just want to say, 'Come on, people! Turn a page!'"

When Winfrey asked Aniston if she was ready to "start the whole dating thing again," the 36-year-old actress emphatically replied, "Yes"—checking her watch as if to say it was time.

Aniston said she's now in a good place: "I'm not sitting somewhere dwelling on the past. I'm not fretting or obsessing about something in the future."

She also joked, "If I had a dollar for every [self-help] book that was sent my way, I could probably pay for this studio"—referring to the new set of Winfrey's show.

AP

'Yale' for jail

NEW YORK—Martha Stewart's euphemism for prison was "Yale." She explained her coping mechanism in an appearance Monday on David Letterman's "Late Show" to promote her two new TV shows.

The former convict said she accepted her five-month prison sentence for lying to authorities about a stock deal instead of waiting for the appeal because she wouldn't have been able to do her shows with the uncertainty. Her daytime talk show premiered last week and her prime-time role in "The Apprentice" begins [Thursday in Manila].

While the prison experience was "pretty horrifying," Stewart said it taught her how strong she was. "I did not allow myself to get depressed," she said. "I did not allow myself to get down too much. I faced what I had to face. I lived through it, actually, with flying colors, if you can live through 'Yale' with flying colors."

AP

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Gov't cuts '06 growth target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CABINET-LEVEL DEvelopment Budget Coordination Committee slashed the government's gross domestic product (GDP) growth target for 2006 to a range of 5.7-6.3 percent and jacked up inflation projection for the same year to 8-8.5 percent.

Inflation projection jacked up, fiscal goals retained

The original 2006 growth target of the government was set at 6.3-7.3 percent while inflation rate was projected to reach only 5-6 percent.

The DBCC, however, maintained most fiscal targets for both this year and next year despite the snags in the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law, which is the core revenue-raising measure of the government.

In a related development, the International Monetary Fund sees the Philippines posting a slower GDP growth rate of 4.8 percent in 2006 and an inflation rate of 7.5 percent in the same period *(See related story on page B4).*

National Economic and Development Authority director Dennis Arroyo said in a briefing yesterday that the GDP growth target was scaled down after factoring in the impact of the continued rise in oil prices.

For this year, the DBCC also raised the inflation rate target to an average of 7.9 percent from the original forecast of 5-6 percent.

The original GDP growth forecast for this year was maintained at 5.3 percent, as the government gave up on the possibility of hitting a 6.3-percent growth, the higher end of its original growth

GOV'T/ B4

ONE OF the 10 Teriyaki Boy outlets

Pancake House buying 70% of Teriyaki Boy

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LISTED RESTAURANT CHAIN PANCAKE House Inc. is buying 70 percent of Japanese fast food Teriyaki Boy for P230 million.

An INQUIRER source said Pancake House was planning to merge with Teriyaki Boy upon the completion of the deal.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Pancake House said its board had approved the execution of a memorandum of agreement with Teriyaki Boy Inc. and Tonka Teriyaki Inc., the operators of the Teriyaki chain in Metro Manila. The agreement was signed on Tuesday, the source said.

Pancake House officer-in-charge Cecille Macaalay said in the disclosure that Pancake House has yet to undertake an examination of Teriyaki Boy's books. Once this is done, Teriyaki Boy will transfer its assets to a new company. These assets, according to sources,

PANCAKE/ B2

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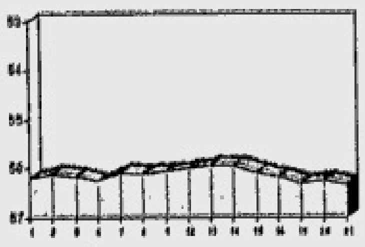

SEPTEMBER

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P 56.325 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2005

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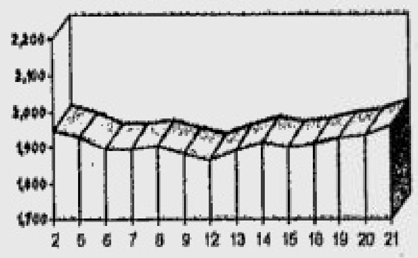
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up 1.33%

SHARE PRICES, EXTENDING gains for a fourth straight session, yesterday closed 1.33 percent higher on the back of selective bargain hunting in the blue chips, dealers said.

They said, however, that volume was thin ahead of an anti-government rally planned for later Wednesday in the Makati financial district and on expectations the central bank will hike interest rates soon, possibly Thursday.

STOCKS/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

7-month garment exports up 1.37% to $1.27B /B2

Breaktime: Since the Don of time /B3

RP wins over IMF with debt-swap proposal /B4

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7-month garment exports up 1.37% to $1.27B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL GARMENT INDUSTRY'S strategy of focusing more on higher-value items propped up export earnings in the first seven months to $1.27 billion, up 1.37 percent from $1.25 in the same period last year.

Serafin Juliano, executive director of the the Garments and Textiles Export Board, said earnings grew 7.7 percent in July to $229.4 million from $212.9 million in the same period last year.

"The improvement is due to the shift in the order patterns. Buyers are getting more of the higher-value products from out producers," Juliano said.

The GTEB chief added that safeguard measures slapped on garment imports from China helped Philippine exports grow.

He said growth potentials were realized in the wool apparel and silk segment, as well as garments made of natural fibers.

"These categories showed an average growth rate of 60 percent month-on-month," Juliano said.

The official said local producers were keeping their sights on increasing aggregate income by a range of 8 percent to10 percent in 2005 from a total of $2.67 billion in 2004.

In an earlier interview, Juliano said the move toward higher priced products was paying off as was evident in the case of silk and natural fiber apparel.

Growth rates from such items in terms of value were far outstripping rates in terms of volume, he said. In the first four months alone, earnings went up 105 percent even as this represented an increase of volume of only 2.86 percent.

He said the local industry was now relying more on its capability to produce quality products, and provide efficient service and value-for-money to its customers.

"This is the path the exporters are taking since we cannot win a (price war)," Juliano said. "(We barely have a chance) against competitors that are strong in high-volume, low-value products.

Also, Juliano said yesterday local firms were working on a possible bilateral arrangement with the United States on selective preferential treatment for garments.

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CEBU PACIFIC pursues re-fleeting program

Gokongwei airline obtains $25.8M in loans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CEBU PACIFIC AIR, OWNED BY TAIPAN John Gokongwei Jr., has obtained $25.8 million in loans from various export credit agencies for the purchase of a new aircraft.

Cebu Pacific has just concluded an aircraft financing agreement with these export credit agencies for the acquisition of a unit of Airbus 319-100.

JG Summit Holdings, the mother company of Cebu Pacific, said in a disclosure that it had agreed to be one of the guarantors of the financing deal on behalf of Cebu Pacific.

The A319-100 , which will be delivered this week, can seat 126 passengers.

Last May, Cebu Pacific sought the approval of three Europe-based export credit firms for $300 million to $400 million in loans that would be used for its re-fleeting program. These were Hermes of Germany, ECGD of the United Kingdom and the Coface Group of France.

Cebu Pacific currently has 11 DC9's and three Boeing 757s.

Under its re-fleeting program, Cebu Pacific will replace its current fleet to 12 Airbus 319s and two 320s.

Pancake House ...

From page B1

may include intellectual property rights, and restaurant and food services operations.

Subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions, the source said, Pancake House would buy 70 percent of the newly-formed company.

Under the MOA, Pancake House will pay Teriyaki Boy owners in three tranches: an earnest money of P10 million to be paid upon the signing of the deal, P190 million on Oct. 28 and the remaining P30 million on Dec. 15.

In the disclosure, Pancake House said it would make its final decision on the deal only upon completion of the due diligence review.

Pancake House said it was now in the process of studying several funding options for this transaction. These include securing long-term borrowings or the issuance of convertible notes.

Last June, the Lorenzo family, the majority owner of Pancake House, said it would infuse as much as P200 million into the company to fund new investments.

Pancake chair and president Martin Lorenzo earlier said the company was on the road to growing its business by putting up additional branches of Pancake House and Dencio's Bar and Grill.

This year, Pancake House will open nine stores to end the year with 60 stores. It is also set to launch eight new stores for Dencio's this year. It already opened five in Eastwood and Metrowalk in Ortigas, Magallanes, Brittany Bay and Harbor View. Dencio's will soon open in Subic, Tagaytay and Sta.Rosa in Laguna.

Pancake House hopes to grow its income by 40 to 50 percent this year and system-wide sales for both its leading brands to between P1 billion and P1.4 billion.

Pancake House is engaged in the business of operating restaurants, coffee shops, refreshment parlors and cocktail lounges. It started commercial operations in 2000.

In the meantime, after opening its first branch on Madison Street in Greenhills, which has a limited dining area, Teriyaki Boy got bigger areas in Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Glorietta 3; SM City Baguio and Festival Mall in Alabang. The Tomas Morato branch, the flagship store, has the biggest space that can accommodate up to 250 customers. Teriyaki Boy serves traditional home-cooked Japanese meals.

Incorporators of Teriyaki Boy, according to Securities and Exchange Commission records, are Mary Tiu, Nena Go, Audrey Tiu, Johnny Go and Aurora Tiu.

Kepco to piggyback on parent's credit rating

By Abigail L. Ho

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORP, THE COUNTRY'S second largest independent power producer, will ride on parent firm Korea Electric Power Corp.'s (Kepco) good credit rating to make cheap loans for its $450-million expansion of the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Speaking to reporters during yesterday's PowerTrends forum, Kepco Philippines president Lee Gil Gu said the expansion would be funded either through a project financing or corporate financing scheme.

He said the prospect of securing funds through corporate financing were particularly promising because of the company's "good creditability."

Guaranteed by its parent firm, Lee said Kepco Philippines had a big chance of borrowing at very low interest rates.

"We can reduce interest rates considerably, considering Kepco's good credit rating, which is even better than [that of] the Philippine government," he said.

The project, which would expand the existing plant by 600 MW, would have a 30:70 debt-to-equity ratio, he said.

Kepco will likewise invest $60 million to bankroll the establishment of submarine cables connecting Ilijan to Mindoro, to create a market for the power plant's expansion.

In connection with the Ilijan expansion, Lee said the IPP would support the government's rural electrification program by infusing between $10 million and $15 million to energize 500 barangays.

Kepco Philippines recently energized 200 barangays in Badian, Cebu.

In an earlier interview, Kepco chair and chief executive Han Joon Ho said work on the Ilijan expansion would begin by late 2006.

He said Kepco would be working with the same partners it has for the existing Ilijan plant.

Since the Don of time

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

MAYBE WE CAN MAKE SOMETHING out of the public confusion, created by reports on the takeover of the Naia 3 project by newspaper owner Emilio Yap, a.k.a. "Don" Emilio to his pawns in the news media.

For one, it proves once again that, when the Don waxes patriotic, we, the public, must see to it that he is not holding any sharp implement.

Down here in my barangay, you see, we have a street term for his burning style of patriotism. And that is, simply, "TAGA!"

***

BASED on news reports, quoting his pawns in business this time, the Don is only taking over the unfinished, messy Naia 3 airport terminal to help the country.

He is the main man in the same Manila Hotel that is supposedly buying out the interest of the German airport operator Fraport in the local firm Piatco.

Reports said the buying price is $230 million, an amazing sum, if you ask me, by the Don's standards.

Perhaps the Don loves this country so much that he is again volunteering his political influence to solve the pesky Naia 3 problem.

Earlier, the Don also volunteered his problem-solving talent for the Manila Hotel problem. At that time, as long time owner of the hotel, GSIS wanted to privatize it.

After the public bidding, the Supreme Court simply declared the Don's group as the clear winner, for the simple reason that the same group lost in the bidding.

The main point in the Supreme Court ruling to reverse the bidding results had something to do with… well, national patrimony.

You know—that kind of problem solving! And all in the name of love of country!

***

LOVE of country has been a good excuse to kill, rob and enslave people since the dawn of time.

And so this time, in the Manila Hotel's reported takeover of Naia 3, the media spin of the group of the Don, this time, has the same hilarious theme.

They are saying, in effect, thanks to the Don, this country will finally enjoy the white elephant Naia 3.

By the way, the unfinished terminal needs at least $100 million more in new investment to be operational.

And yet, both Piatco and Fraport claimed that they already spent between $450 and $600 million for the terminal.

So where did all the money go? Well, simple, nobody knows up to now.

Piatco and Fraport refuse to open their books for a little audit. *Basta*, they just demand on the Philippine government payment for the unfinished terminal, period.

***

AS another gesture of patriotism involving the Naia 3, the Don again will use the money of the public, particularly the funds of the GSIS, which belong to its millions of members.

Up to know, even after the oxymoronic "privatization" of a "national patrimony," the GSIS still owns 15 percent of the hotel.

As I said, news reports placed the price tag for the "interests" of Fraport in Naia 3 at $230 million.

The former BIR commissioner, losing senatorial bet twice in a row, and now Piatco spokesperson Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, reacting to the reported deal, called the Don an "astute" businessman. Hmm.

Using elementary math, for the sake of action stars in the Senate, at such a price of $230 million, and with GSIS owning 15 percent of Manila Hotel, GSIS will have an exposure in the Naia 3 transaction of up to P2 billion.

Now, aside from its 15 percent ownership of Manila Hotel, and this time as a carryover of the "privatization," the group of the Don still owes GSIS some P1 billion.

And what is the GSIS board of trustees doing about the long time collectible from the group of the Don? Well, hardly anything!

Really, I sang praises for GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, for his sheer guts in fighting for public interest in the PCI Equitable Bank squabble.

But the same guy, according to GSIS insiders, is dragging his foot in collecting the debt of the Don in the Manila Hotel "privatization."

You can just imagine how much interest that P1 billion should have earned by now?

Whaaat? GSIS is not even charging the Don interest on his debt? I don't believe you!

Now I see what the spokesperson Chato meant when she said the Don is —what was the word again— "astute."

***

NOTICE, by the way, that I said Fraport "interests" in Naia 3, and not "shares" in Piatco.

Reportedly, the deal between the Don and Fraport involves not only Fraport's holdings in Piatco, but also its "advances" to the project.

It is said that Fraport provided all the money for the project. Ergo, Piatco did not have the money.

So how come it qualified in getting the contract, in the first place?

Well, you have to ask the people of for President Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos. After taking away the project from the original BOT proponents, who were the six Filipino taipans known as the AEDC, or the Asia Emerging Dragon Corp., the boys of Kuya Eddie awarded the contract to Piatco that did not have the money. Nice, no?

***

AND so you have the Don, the main man of the politics-shy news outfit called Manila Bulletin, who has yet to pay his obligations with the GSIS in full.

And yet he is now involved in a $230-million purchase of a messy problematic project.

Granted that the Don can raise the money to pay for the Fraport deal, although it is not easy.

You see, the truth of the matter is, Manila Hotel only bought the shares in Piatco of the minority stockholders called SB Airports (as in "Security Bank") and the Japanese company called Sojitz.

That gave Manila Hotel 20-percent ownership of Piatco.

If the Don swings the deal to buy Fraport's holdings, or about 30 percent, Manila hotel can own 50 percent of Piatco.

That's why the media spin of the group of the Don talks about opening the terminal at last.

I have a little problem with that. What if this cute administration does not give in the pressure from the Don? What if the Supreme Court also does not give in?

What happens now to the GSIS, which owns 15 percent of Manila Hotel, is that the pension fund gets caught in a mess.

Oops, that's the money of GSIS members again!

***

WE already have indications of that this cute administration is not exactly going to hand over the Naia 3 to the Don.

For example, former DILG Secretary Jose Lina, who is now the president of Manila Hotel, tried to wrangle the terminal from this cute administration, in talks with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

In effect, Lina was telling Ermita that this cute administration should just let Piatco run the terminal, since the Manila Hotel just became one of the owners.

Thus, this cute administration could forget the issues with Piatco about "just compensation" for the "expropriation" of the terminal.

Down here in my barangay, that simply means the government is willing to pay for what the terminal is really worth.

And it is willing pay for the terminal, if if the Senate blue ribbon committee already concluded in its report that "the entire exercise that led to the construction of (Naia 3) was tainted with anomalies every step of the way."

***

BASED on the spin of the Don's media pawns, this cute administration is losing popularity because of the Piatco mess. Really now!

On the contrary, this cute administration's handling of the Piatco case, when it did not compromise what was right, was one of its few shining moments.

If this cute administration becomes so desperate that it gives to in the pressure from the Don on the Piatco deal, it will just be another way of selling us down the river.

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NTC tells telcos to pay their regulatory fees

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission expects to collect over P700 million in regulatory fees this month from telecommunications firms, broadcast networks, radio stations and cable operators, according to the agency's head.

NTC chair Ronald Solis yesterday reminded these companies to pay their regulatory fees on before the end of the month.

Otherwise, they face fines, sanctions and even revocation of their licenses to operate, warned the NTC chair.

"I think we would collect around P700 million or more by the end of the month. This is excluding the cases we resolved already, which gave us a windfall," said Solis in an interview.

Last February, the regulator received a one-time gain of P540 million from Pilipino Telephone Corp. for unpaid regulatory fees and penalties.

The NTC and Piltel reached a compromise where the Commission agreed to reduce an earlier assessment of P1.3 billion following a justice department opinion cautioning the regulator against the "confiscatory nature" of its surcharges and penalties.

Of the P1.3 billion in fees earlier assessed by the NTC for Piltel, P24 million was for 2004. Penalties and surcharges account for about P500 million.

Solis said the Commission would strictly impose the penalties and sanctions against companies that fail to comply with the deadline.

Sanctions, he noted, could include suspension or revocation of authorizations and licenses. Collection letters have already been sent to delinquent companies.

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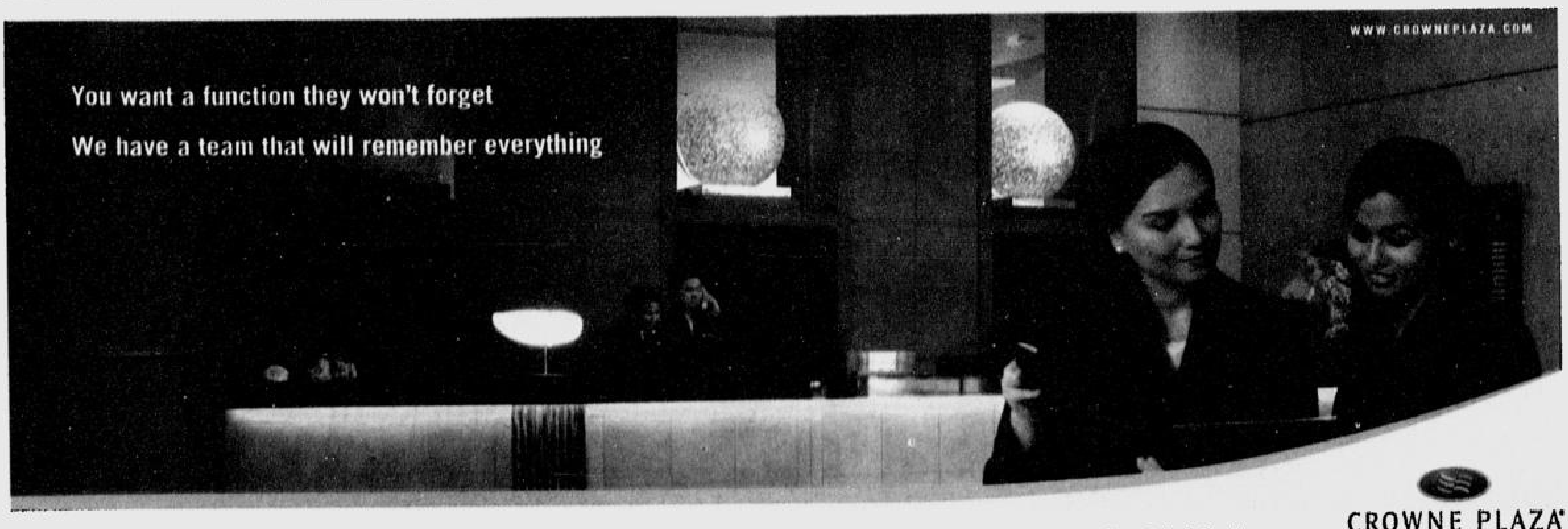
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RP wins over IMF with debt-swap proposal

By Michael Lim Ubac

WASHINGTON D.C.—THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) has welcomed the Philippine proposal to convert half of the country's $55-billion foreign debt into funds for antipoverty projects.

"We will put our brains to work on this ... it can be moved forward," said IMF Deputy Managing Director Agustin Carstens shortly after Speaker Jose de Venecia briefed fund officials on his proposal at the IMF main headquarters here in the US capital on Wednesday (Manila time).

The "debt-for-equity proposal," which will benefit 99 other heavily indebted nations, is being packaged to help lift billions of lives from poverty and "perhaps help change the world," according to De Venecia.

De Venecia proposed that half of the $2.3-trillion total debt stock of the 100 poor nations should be converted into equity investments in mass housing, food production, reforestation, health, education, mining, energy, clean water, post-harvest facilities and land reclamation.

The scheme does not entail additional monies or force lenders to condone the obligations of debtor nations.

The Philippines owes IMF 320 million special drawing rights, or SDR (which is 1.46139 per US dollar).

Since first presenting the debt strategy in May, De Venecia had won a series of hard-earned endorsements, among them from officials of Italy and Germany, as well as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

In a letter to De Venecia, Annan said: "Your proposal to broaden the scale and scope of the debt swaps would help provide debt relief and release additional funds for financing sustainable development activities that are key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

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CLOSING HIGH

Filipino brokers flash the thumbs-up sign inside the stock exchange in Makati's financial district. Philippine main stock index gained 1.33 percent to close at its best in about a month. Analysts attributed the rise to accumulation on stocks that were considered to be bargains. REUTERS

RP continues to lag behind SE Asia economies, says IMF

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES NEXT year will continue to lag behind its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of economic performance, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The Philippines, hounded by huge public debts and political uncertainties, is expected to post the slowest gross domestic product growth rate of 4.8 percent, and the highest inflation rate of 7.5 percent among the four biggest Asean countries (Asean-4) in 2006, the IMF said in its latest economic prospects released yesterday.

"Looking forward, the key macroeconomic priorities remain continued fiscal consolidation—particularly in the Philippines, where large external financing requirements and high public debt remain significant vulnerabilities," the IMF said.

The 4.8-percent GDP growth projected by the IMF for the country in 2006 is much lower than the government's revised target of 5.7 percent and below the projected average of 5.4 percent for Asean-4, and 6.9 percent for other emerging Asian countries.

Indonesia is seen to grow by 5.8 percent, Thailand and Malaysia, by 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

GDP refers to the sum of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given period.

The inflation rate forecast of 7.5 percent for the Philippines was also seen higher than the Asean-4 average of 5.1 percent, with Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia expected to post lower rates of 6.5 percent, 2.7 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively.

For this year, the IMF expects the country to chalk up a GDP growth rate of 4.7 percent, better than Thailand's projected 3.5 percent, but slower than Indonesia's 5.8 percent and Malaysia's 5.5 percent.

The country's inflation this year is seen to average at 8.2 percent, at par with Indonesia's 8.2 percent, and higher than Thailand's 4.2 percent and Malaysia's 3 percent.

Overall, the IMF said persistently high oil prices would adversely affect economic activities.

"In the Philippines, where, after several months of improving fundamentals, the recent political turmoil has raised concerns about the prospects for economic reforms and led to downward revisions to the ratings outlook," said the IMF, citing country specific risks.

The IMF added that the very low level of private investment was the greater concern, underscoring the need to complete the unfinished reform agenda in financial and corporate sector restructuring, including improvements in governance.

But while the Philippines had the poorest prospects for GDP and inflation among Asean-4, the IMF sees the country performing well, second only to Malaysia in prospective current account surpluses.

The Philippines is seen to chalk up a current account surplus equivalent to 2.1 percent of GDP this year and 1.9 percent next year, as against Indonesia which is seen to incur a shortfall equivalent to 0.4 percent of GDP this year and post a meager surplus of 0.7 percent of GDP next year.

Makati mulls over package to reel in investors

THE MAKATI LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS DRAWING up a package of incentives to reel in new investors, even as current business owners are threatening to relocate elsewhere due to high taxes in the city.

City Council Secretary Rogelio Marasigan said in a statement that City Hall is expected to promulgate next year the Makati Investment Code, which is seen to bring new investments to the city.

Marasigan said the law would include tax breaks, discounts, waived fees and shorter permits processing time for companies that would set up shop in Makati.

The statement came after some businessmen in Makati announced their plans to relocate to nearby Taguig because the taxes in the city might go even higher once Makati upgrades its tax rates from municipal grade to city grade.

According to the businessmen, taxes in Makati are higher than those in other areas in Metro Manila.

"While we cannot stop them from leaving, we advise them to study the existing tax rates in the other cities, as well as the state of infrastructure and public services there. They will see that there are good reasons for staying in Makati," Marasigan said. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), wishes to invite bidders for the **RISC SERVER and PROCESSOR / MEMORY BOARD FOR SUNFIRE V1280 SERVER.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from September 15, 2005 to September 28, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1107, 11th Floor, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 9,250.00

The PhilHealth had provided funds for this project. The approved budget for this contract is Php18,500,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 29, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on October 20, 2005 on or before 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the PhilHealth's bundy clock located at the lobby of 18th floor. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amounts:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 185,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 277,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 462,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php18,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 22, 2005)

Gov't cuts ...

From page B1

target range.

Arroyo said the new 2006 growth targets assumed that Dubai oil prices would range between a low of $56.34 per barrel and a high of $60 per barrel.

If Dubai oil remained at $56.34 per barrel, which was based on the forecast of the Energy Information Administration, Arroyo said the country could still hit a growth rate of 6.3 percent next year.

But if oil prices would hit as high as $70 a barrel, which is deemed as the worst case scenario, Arroyo said actual growth next year might even fall short of the reduced target.

At a price of $70 per barrel, he said the Neda had projected that growth could slow down to 5.4 percent.

However, Arroyo pointed out that the impact of the oil crunch had been less severe than expected with the remittances from migrant Filipino workers helping to sustain robust domestic consumption, which continued to fuel economic growth.

He added that the country was benefiting from improved inflows of foreign direct and portfolio investments, boosting the balance of payments position.

The DBCC maintained the government's cash budget deficit cap at P180 billion this year and P125 billion next year, despite the temporary restraining order (TRO) on VAT implementation.

"The fiscal targets are still within our shooting range," said Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran.

The deficit target for next year, however, already assumes the implementation of the VAT law.

The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the of the VAT law but has yet to lift the TRO order on the law's implementation.

For this year, the government is targeting to generate P783 billion in revenue, of which P546.9 billion was to come from Bureau of Internal Revenue collections.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31.5	520,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	53.5	51	52.5	1,875,500
China Banking Corp.	615	620	600	600	2,350
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	219,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	8,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	425,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	16	15.5	15.5	20,100
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	30	30	258,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	50,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2860	2860	2860	2860	470
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2100	2100	2090	2090	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	14.25	13.25	14	67,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	850,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	775	780	770	770	67,350
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	88,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3	1,087,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1615	1635	1610	1635	76,560
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	7,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	14	5,100
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	21.25	20.5	21.25	807,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	6,476,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,751,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	10,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	337,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	619,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	550,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	850,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	983,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	271,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	119,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	8,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	1,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	194,500
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	65.5	65	65.5	23,800
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	94	94	253,700
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	380,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	300	295	297.5	122,320
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5.2	4.95	5.2	906,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	13,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	177,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,750,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	62,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	360,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.6	10	9.6	9.6	13,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	2,642,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.2	3.05	3.15	3,267,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	1,135,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43.5	42.5	43	589,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.55	3.4	3.55	227,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.78	65,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.42	4,620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,670,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	25,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	700,000
SM Investments Corp.	208	208	205	206	189,640
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	70,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	480,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	1,520,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.73	140,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	1,110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.6	1,683,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	620,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.25	14.25	13.25	14	494,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10.5	10	10.5	8,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.2	8,067,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.96	330,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	2,440,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	8,934,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.95	5.2	4.95	5.2	3,142,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	460,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	79,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	8,153,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.93	290,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	310,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.1	400,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	3,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	11,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	12,510,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	48,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	98,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	42,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.88	2,820,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	1,331,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	401,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	70,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	61,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.2	4.8	4.2	4.6	475,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2,620,000

CURRENCIES

September 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825355	1.000000	56.2900
Japan	Yen	0.007372	0.008932	0.5028
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484401	1.798500	101.2376
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106340	0.128841	7.2525
Switzerland	Franc	0.643703	0.779910	43.9011
Canada	Dollar	0.705130	0.854336	48.0906
Singapore	Dollar	0.490494	0.594283	33.4522
Australia	Dollar	0.634937	0.769290	43.3033
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.189387	2.652661	149.3183
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220083	0.266652	15.0098
Brunei	Dollar	0.489041	0.592522	33.3531
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020116	0.024372	1.3719
UAE	Dirham	0.224727	0.272279	15.3266
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.211600	68.2010
Argentina	Peso	0.283384	0.343348	19.3271
Brazil	Real	0.359397	0.435445	24.5112
Denmark	Kroner	0.134080	0.162451	9.1444
India	Rupee	0.018835	0.022821	1.2846
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218985	0.265322	14.9350
Mexico	New Peso	0.076231	0.092362	5.1991
New Zealand	Dollar	0.578425	0.700820	39.4492
South Africa	Rand	0.129402	0.156784	8.8254
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000970	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025011	0.030303	1.7058

Stocks up 1.33%

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange put on 25.64 points to 1,959.15 after trading between 1,933.51 and 1,960.29. Turnover was 507 million shares worth P772.48 million. The broader all-shares index gained 9.25 points to 1,187.06.

Losers led gainers 38 to 30, with 65 stocks unchanged.

The Philippine peso was at 56.26 to the dollar in midday trade.

Opposition politicians said they expect thousands of protesters to gather in several key Manila areas, including in the financial district, to call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo. *AFP*

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1	B2 L28 Everlasting St., Cherryville Subd., Bgy. San Juan Taytay Rizal	Townhouse	48.00	48.00	442,200.00	occupied
2	B11 L11 Sampaguita St., Cherryville Subd., Bgy. San Juan Taytay Rizal	Townhouse	48.00	48.00	442,200.00	
3	B12 L8 Road Lot 6., Cherryville Subd., Bgy. San Juan Taytay Rizal	Townhouse	81.00	57.00	820,600.00	occupied
4	B2 L62 Everlasting St., Cherryville Subd., Bgy. San Juan Taytay Rizal	Townhouse	48.00	85.00	552,200.00	occupied
5	B27 L3 St. Catherine St., La Mar Village Guitnang Bayan I San Mateo, Rizal	Rowhouse	32.00	38.00	236,500.00	occupied
6	B10 L2 Vista Verde Country Homes 4 Bgy. Munting Dilaw Antipolo City	Lot only	-	200.00	726,000.00	
7	B77 L11 Molave St., Antipolo Hills Subd., Bgy. San Luis Antipolo City	House & Lot	36.00	120.00	429,000.00	occupied
8	B13 L2 Peace Village Bgy.San Jose Antipolo City	House & Lot		80.00	176,000.00	with old & dilapidated house
	BULACAN					
1	Blk. 11 Lot 22 Yellow St. Felicisima Subd. Bgy. Mojon, Malolos Bulacan	House & Lot	36.00	240.00	739,200.00	with old & dilapidated house
	PASAY CITY					
1	Unit 1602 Antel Seaview Towers Roxas Boulevard Pasay City	Condominium unit	147.06	-	7,719,800.00	occupied

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-59, 897-32-90
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(PDI - Sept. 22, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Certificate Nos. MFU038261-285 shares, MFU040754-299 shares and MFU043697-500 shares registered under the name of TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. were declared lost and is now subject for reconstitution by TRCFI/ PDAF. If no contest is received within 1 year, new certificates will be issued by HSBC.
(PDI-Sept. 8, 15 & 22, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT of the estate of Pedro G. Matias and Salud S. Matias has been executed by their children under Doc.306 ; Page 83 ; Book 11 Series of 2004 dated 26 July 2004 of Notary Public Victor P. Gimenez of Bacolod Quezon (PDI Sept. 22 - 29 Oct. 6 05)

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late spouses
LEON C. VINOYA
and
RUFINA B. DELA CRUZ
executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition and Special Power of Attorney for PCI Bank Stock Certificates No.1551, 1549 and 1550 issued on November 14, 1983 and PCI Bank Certificates No. 2689, 2688 and 2690 issued on July 4, 1984 on September 5, 2005 as per Doc. No. 314 Page No.63 Book No. 8 Series of 2005 of Notary Public Richard L. Anolin of City of Manila
(PDI Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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PGMA Calls on NREA Commitment to Housing Program

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has called for the commitment of the National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA) to work closely with the government in meeting the housing needs of the people, which at the same time will help boost the country's economic growth.

President Arroyo issued the call in a message for the 10th National Convention and Exhibits of NREA which opens today, Sept. 22, 10 a. m. at Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

"We need to boost housing and land development to keep the momentum of our economic growth. And NREA's commitment combined with its solid track record, will provide the much-needed impetus to keep our economy on track," President Arroyo said.

In her message, President Arroyo also thanked the officers and members of NREA for taking time out and sharing in this convention vital information and ideas that will strengthen the efforts to bring about affordable and decent housing for the people.

"The success of our efforts today will depend largely on your commitment to work hand-in-hand with the government in meeting the housing needs of our people. I hope that this convention will strengthen our collaboration towards the advancement of the housing industry," President Arroyo added.

Meanwhile, organizationman Jose V. Manalad, NREA's president, announced that the association will also celebrate its 15th founding anniversary today (Sept. 22), 6 p.m. at the same venue with an Anniversary Dinner and Chapters' Night.

The Convention Organizing Committee headed by honorary chairman Nestor S. Mangio is composed of Engr. Raphael Baylon, convention chairman; Alejandro Mañalac and Gilda Ladia, vice chairmen; Ysolde Flores, Evelina Estrada, Veronica Lim, Manuel dela Cruz, Juan Concepcion, Jr., Marissa del Mar, Sol Antonio, Frank Mendoza, Dante Liban, Reynaldo Carpio, Jun Gultiano, Rolando Liao, Dioscoro Garing, Jr. and Jess Cauguiran, members.

New members will also be inducted during the affair.

1991

National Real Estate Association

The One-Stop Trade Organization
cordially invites you to attend the

10th National Convention and Trade Exhibits

September 22-24, 2005
10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Megatrade Hall 3, 5th Level
Building B, SM Megamall
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

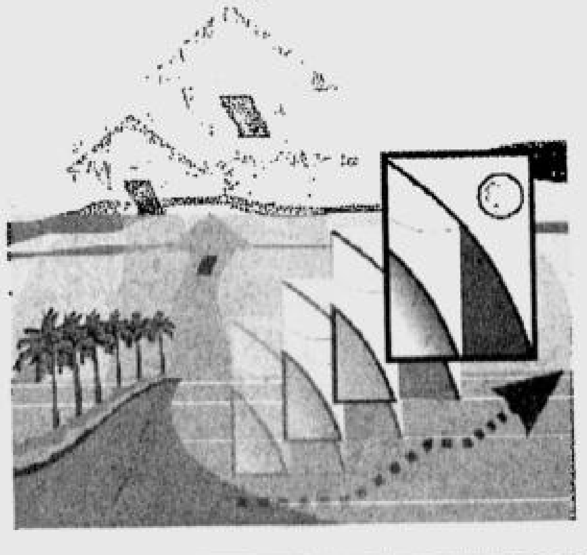
Theme:

"Sustaining the Real Estate Boom"

The Convention Theme reflects both the challenges and opportunities faced by real estate practitioners by providing for the needs of the increasing number of Filipinos especially those who will be living and working in urban areas.

WORKING THEMES

- URBAN RENAISSANCE
- URBAN RENEWAL
- THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE REAL ESTATE BOOM AND ITS SUPPORT SYSTEM
- REAL ESTATE MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT



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Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

47th TESDA BOARD MEETING

4 August 2005, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-15

Approving and Promulgating the Training Regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song), Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII

WHEREAS, Section 14 Item (b) of RA 7796 mandates that TESDA shall develop and establish a national system of skills standardization, testing and certification and to conduct research and development on various occupational areas in order to recommend policies, rules and regulations for effective and efficient skills standardization, testing and certification system in the country;

WHEREAS, in the 8th Standard Setting and Systems Development TESDA Board - TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 29 March 2005, the Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song), Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, in the 10th Standard Setting and Systems Development TESDA Board - TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 23 June 2005 the Training Regulations for the For Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII And Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, in the 43rd Executive Committee - TESDA Board Meeting held on 14 July 2005 the EXCOM-TESDA Board endorsed favorably the approval and promulgation of the training regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII And Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, the technical experts have endorsed for promulgation the following training regulations:

- Front Office Services NCII
- Baking/Pastry Production NCII
- Fish Capture NCI
- Agri-Crops Production NCI
- Food Processing NCII
- Security Services NCI
- Health Care Services NCII
- Performing Arts (Song) NCII
- Performing Arts (Dance) NCII
- Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle)
- Beauty Care NCII
- Beauty Care NCIII
- Hairdressing NCII
- Hairdressing NCIII

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approve and promulgate the Training Regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII and Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the resolution and Training Regulations (TRs) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training regulations must comply with the requirements of the above mentioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulation shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 4th of August 2005.

Ma. Adorinda de Jesus-Forro
MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Department of Labor and Employment
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd. South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila.

46th TESDA BOARD MEETING
19 May 2005, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-10

APPROVING AND PROMULGATING THE TRAINING REGULATIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD SERVICES NC II AND PYROTECHNICS NC II

WHEREAS, in the 8th Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 29 March 2005, the Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, during the 9th Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 12 May 2005, the Training Regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII were deliberated and favorably recommended/endorsed to the TESDA Board for approval;

WHEREAS, during the 42nd Executive Committee – TESDA Board Meeting held on 16 May 2005, the EXCOM-TESDA BOARD endorsed favorably the approval and promulgation of the training regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII.

WHEREAS, the Technical Experts have endorsed for promulgation the following Training Regulations;

1. Household Service NCII
2. Pyrotechnics NCII

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates the Training Regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations (TR) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs under these training regulations must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 19th May 2005.

Ma. Adorinda de Jesus-Forro
MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical and Educational Skills Development Authority

Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Department of Labor and Employment
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI-Sept. 22-23, 2005)

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

FRANCISCO R. BAUTISTA, JR.

"Dombie"

peacefully joined his Creator on September 20, 2005 at the age of 60.

His loved ones, **Malou Bago-od**, children & grandchildren, **Francis, Elena Latorre** & **Miguel, Carla, Loy Bernardino** & **Louie,** and **Matthew**; mother **Marietta**; sisters **Elang & Jovel Francisco, Esther** & **Vic Esber, Lucie** & **Robert Benisano**; brother **Dading** & **Marivic Javelosa**, his relatives; relatives of his late wife, **Marilou Mendoza-Bautista**; and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His wake will be held at the Memorial Chapel of Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Q. C.

Interment of his ashes will be on Saturday, September 24, 2005, immediately after the 10:00 am Mass.

"The Lord Giveth, the Lord Taketh;
PRAISE Be The Name of the Lord!"

RUBEN AFRICA MARALIT

Co-founder, Fraternal Order of the Knights,
Letran Manila
who passed away on Friday, 16 September

Loving wife **Tessie (nee Magtibay)** and her relatives; sons **Ruter**, **Ruel** and **Runiev**; brother **Alex**, sister **Volet**, brother-in-law **Robert**, and their families; and cousins, nephews and nieces, are all grateful for your prayers.

Pre-interment Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 pm, Sunday, 25th September at Lipa City Cathedral where his body lies in state.

Interment follows at the Lipa City Catholic Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Atty. JOSE "Peping" PADOLINA

Who joined his Creator on September 22, 2004

His family request relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him always in their prayers.

Holy masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches.

Churches	Date	Time
Saint Joseph Parish	September 22, 2005	6:00 P.M.
Miraculous Medal, *Project 4, Q.C.*	September 22, 2005	6:30 A.M.
Sto. Cristo Church, *General Tinio, Nueva Ecija*	September 25, 2005	6:00 A.M.
Good Shepherd Parish Church, *Fairview*	September 22, 2005	6:00 P.M.
Sanctuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, San Juan*	September 22, 2005	
Kristong Hari Church, *Commonwealth Ave.*	September 22, 2005	6:00 P.M.
Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, *New Manila*	September 22, 2005	

Many thanks to all who keep them in memory:

wife	:	Rosalina M. Padolina
children	:	Pancho & Letty Danny & Eleonor Pempe & Badette Len & Gil Botchie "Maribot" Lito
grandchildren	:	Jaimie Camille & Paulo Jeramie Joseph

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord make me secure ..." Psalm 4:9

BENJAMIN SAN JOSE RECTO

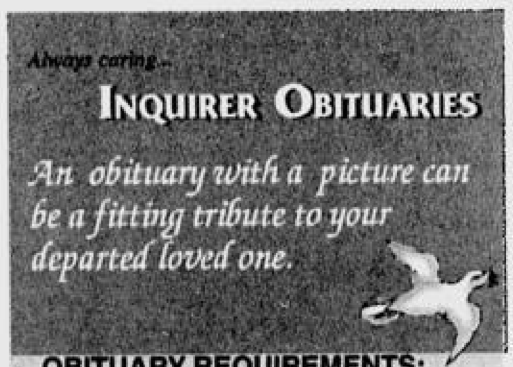
Passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on September 16, 2005 at the age of 88.

He joins MAMA Roquesa Capili (†) TITA Carmelita Calo (†) and Kuya Benjie (†) in heaven.

His loving children Rhoda, Rhodora & Francis, Roxana, Bing & Connie, Monette, Anjay & Helen, Princess and Francis; grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of his soul.

Cremation is at Chapel C La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at The Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park Chapel.



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ATTY. DAMIAN S.J. VILLASECA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 19, 2005 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Paz Talosig** (†); children **Albert** and **Bernard** and **Maro**; grandchildren **Julie Paz Camille** and **Jose Damian Alberto**; sister **Victoria**; nephews **Ariel** and **Joel**; sisters and brothers-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at their residence at No. 2 San Cristobal St., Justinville Subd., Palico 2, Palico, Imus, Cavite.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Imus Cathedral at 3:00 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

Interment will immediately follow at Angelus Eternal Garden, Imus, Cavite.

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CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES OF MORE OR LESS 18,000 BAGS NFA RICE FROM TABACO/LEGAZPI PORT TO ORMOC CITY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office Legaspi City invites all qualified Vessel Owners with a minimum load capacity of 17,000 bags rice with standard weight at 50 kilograms to apply for eligibility to bid for the provisions of freight services of more or less 18,000 bags NFA rice from Tabaco/Legazpi Port to Ormoc Port.

Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (In bags of 50 kg.)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
Tabaco/Legazpi Port to: Ormoc City	18,000 bags	P525,600.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Activity	Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 15-23, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 15-26, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
3.	Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 29, 2005	10:00 AM
4.	Deadline for Submission of Bids/ Eligibility Check & Opening of Bids	Oct. 12, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be held at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non transferable/non-refundable registration fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibily and to bid is first advertized.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers:(052) 480-7933/480-7015/480-7065/820-0018 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - September 15, & 22, 2005)

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MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI announces the re-bidding of its Paco and Cebu properties through sealed public bidding. The submission of bids is scheduled on October 05, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. The bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

1. Paco Properties

NORTH PROPERTY		SOUTH PROPERTY	
Located on Sanciangco St., Paco Manila		Located at 1536 Paz Guazon St., Paco Manila	
TCT No.	Area	TCT No.	Area
34304	2,608.20 sqm	39480	536.80 sqm
33924	2, 231.40	39482	2,239.00
33924	7,431.20	39482	1,727.73
		25165	502.00
		25165	34,990.00
	12,270.80 sqm		39,995.53 sqm

2. Cebu Property - located along the Barangay Road, Barangay Opao, Mandaue City

TCT No.	Area
18998	2,128.00 sqm
18999	9,529.00
	11,657.00 sqm

Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package from MGC c/o Ms. Ellen Paracale at the 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City with tel. no. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313/Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City with tel. no. 032-3418674. A pre-bidding conference will be held on September 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on **CASH-AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS.**

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such which are deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI.

(PDI- Sept. 22, 23 & 24, 2005)

National Power Corporation

September 14, 2005

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC BIDDING

The NPC-Employees & Welfare Fund (NPC-ESWF) invites buyers "TO BID" for the ff. property:

Property Name	:	NPC-Irisan Housing Project-Phase II
Location	:	Brgy. Irisan, Naguilian Road, Baguio City
Total Area in Squre meter	:	**78,616 sq. mtrs.;** subdivided (with titles issued by Baguio City Reg. Of Deeds) into 215 saleable lots and 18 lots Road lots, Alleys & Open spaces; Updated Realty Tax Payment
Description		Undeveloped/rawland property with sloping & rolling terrain;
HLURB Cert. of Reg. No.	:	CR-CAR-01-97-004
Zonal; Current Market Value	:	P1,700.00 / sq.mtr.; P3,000/sq. mtr.
Floor Price; Terms	:	**P550.00 / sq. mtr. ; Cash / NET**
Pre-Bid Conference / Site Inspection	:	October 13, 2005 – 9:00 A.M., Baguio City
Deadline for submission of Bids	:	October 20, 2005 – 5:00 P.M.
Opening of Bids	:	**October 21, 2005, 9:30 A.M.** NPC-ESWF Office

Bid documents can be secured on October 1-12, 2005, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at NPC-ESWF Office, 3rd Floor, NPC Bldg. I, corner Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00

(Sgd.) EDMUND R. ANGULUAN
VP-HR / Admin / Finance &
Ex-Officio Chairman
Welfare Fund Board of Trustees

(PDI - Sept. 20, 22 & 26, 2005)

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US Fed move adds pressure on BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao

A FRESH 25-BASIS POINT INTEREST RATE hike by the US Federal Reserve yesterday narrowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) options, giving it even more impetus to raise its own key rates at today's monetary policy-setting meeting.

"The Fed rate hike will tend to reduce further the interest rate differential," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

"With this and the higher liquidity growth and their implications for future inflation, we are not ruling out monetary tightening in the short-term," Tetangco said.

Although Tetangco did not say when the next BSP rate hike would happen, four out of six polled traders believe the Monetary Board would vote for a 25-basis point hike at today's monthly rate setting meeting.

For the 11th straight session, the US Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee raised its Fed funds rate by 25 basis points to 3.75 percent yesterday, saying the fallout from Hurricane Katrina did not pose a "persistent threat" to the nation's economic health.

Traders around the world believe further tightening in the US would happen during the Fed's next meeting in early November. A pause in the US' tightening cycle is not expected until the fourth quarter. The Fed funds rate is not yet perceived to be at a "neutral" level as inflationary pressures continue to pick up in the world's biggest economy.

The BSP has kept its overnight rates steady since last April, when the key overnight borrowing rate was hiked by 25 basis points to 7 percent as a "preemptive move" against rising inflation.

Last July, it also raised the reserve requirement on bank deposits by 2 percentage points to siphon off excess liquidity from the financial system.

Rates are expected to rise today because a narrowing interest rate differential between US and Philippine securities will drive down the peso's value. A depreciating peso, in turn, could add to inflationary pressures from skyrocketing oil prices.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4821, Series of 2005.

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST
'LOLA'S' chicken soup /C4

LIFESTYLE

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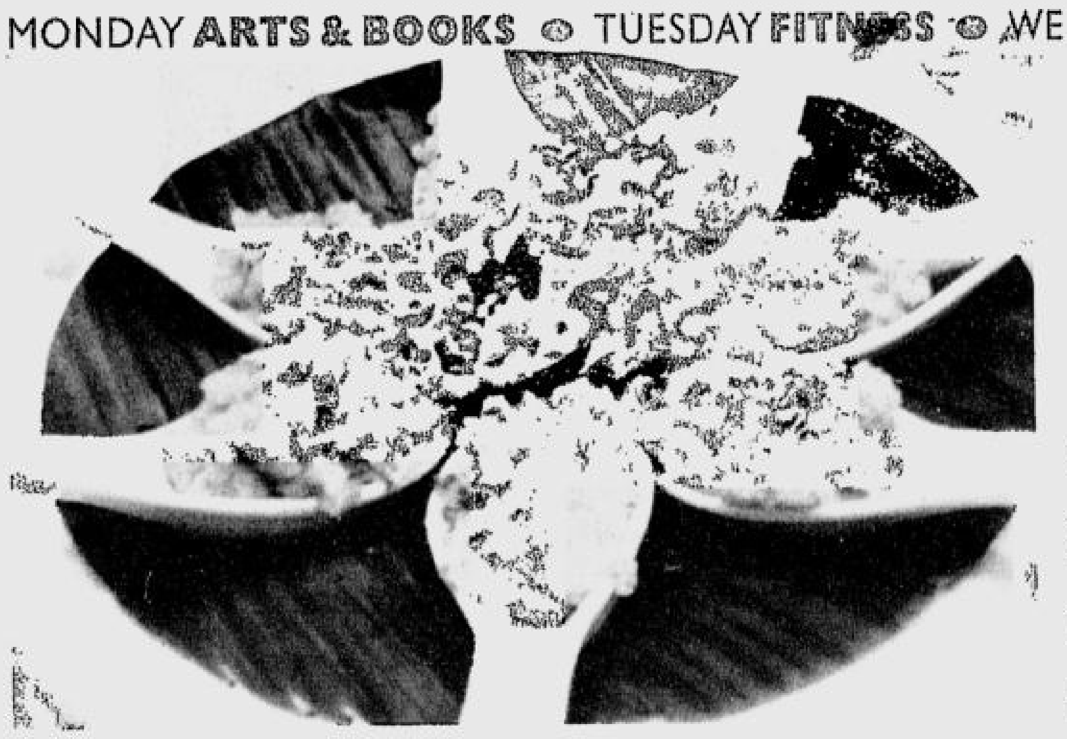
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

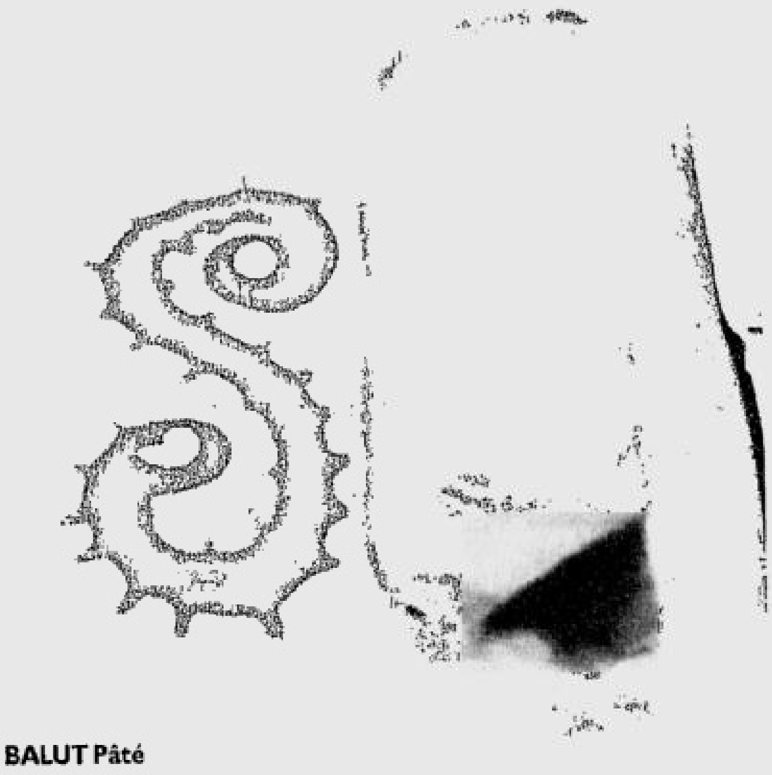
MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

'Quimsonizing' Filipino food

Chef Ed Quimson's Filos resto introduces us to Filipino cuisine that's heavenly



KINILAW with secret *chicharon* sprinkling



BALUT Pâté

Text and photos by Margaux Salcedo
Contributor

DOREEN FERNANDEZ ONCE said one reason she persisted in writing about food was that it was a way of discovering a people's culture. "If I can get people curious about family recipes and hometown recipes and regional cooking, I think I am encouraging them to look at their culture."

It is with the same purpose that chef Ed Quimson has created the menu for Filos, his new restaurant at the Fort.

Filos is an exploration of traditional Filipino food: its beauty, its scents and aromas, its roughness and tenderness, the desire to devour it, and the joy of sharing it. It is an appreciation of the most traditional and characteristic of Filipino foods through the eyes and careful study of this creative cook.

First on the list of indigenous recipes: Kilawin Tuna with Kakang Gata (Diced Tuna with Coconut Milk and Spices). A method of cooking that involves merely marinating the seafood in vinegar until cooked, *kinilaw* came about because, as Fernandez explained in her book "Kinilaw," "the sea-going Filipino knew the value of freshness, and of food being left to taste as it was meant to, untampered."

It's a method of cooking that Chef Ed clearly understands. He executes the *kinilaw* perfectly, to "that stage when it is no longer uncooked, but the freshness is kept primal," although he also adds *gata* or coconut milk, as they do in certain provinces, because it absorbs the sourness caused by the vinegar.

I liked it enough, and then let out an added "Mmmm" as I tasted something definitely neither *kinilaw*-sour nor *ginataan*-sweet. It was a salty aftertaste which was curiously familiar. And when the answer hit me, my chinky eyes stared saucer-wide. I couldn't believe it, I had to ask Chef Ed for confirmation.

Yes, indeed, Chef Ed had sprinkled brilliance into the dish in the form of pulverized *chicharon*(pork rind)! Who would have ever thought of mixing *chicharon* with *kilawin* with *gata*? But it worked! It created the precise combination of sour, cool and salty that defines Philippine cuisine. Brilliant.

Recurring theme

This mix-and-match of Philippine dishes is a recurring theme on the menu. Take the Bangus Belly Stuffed with Pinakbet. *Bangus* (Philippine milkfish) and *pinakbet* (a vegetable dish usually containing *ampalaya* or bitter melon, squash and *bagoong*, or shrimp paste) are dishes that stand on their own.

But Filos dictates that you take them together. Chef Ed sandwiches the *pinakbet* between bellies so you're forced to appreciate them as one. He insists you savor the salty *bagoong* against the *bangus'* hint of sourness in its lemon marinade, tempered by the shy sweetness of the accompanying plain white rice.

It may sound ordinary, but that's where the genius comes in. Like the creation of the per-

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THE PANEL of judges for the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition: (from left) Jojo Ajero of Chowking Restaurant, Michelle Chang of Metro Grind, Sharon and Jim Fuentabilla of Max's Restaurant-Makati Branch, Gene Gonzalez of Center for Asian Culinary Studies, Ajie Acorda and Tess Sutilo of Nestlé Philippines

MICHELLE Ong of College of St. Benilde won first prize for her "Honeydew Lychee Coller" and "Chocolate Amandine"

CSB student wins ice cream contest

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT Management student Michelle Santiago Ong of the College of St. Benilde was grand prize winner in the 2005 Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition at the recent World's Food Expo (WOFEX) 2005 at the World Trade Center.

Ong received the Golden Scooper for her original recipes "Honeydew Lychee Coller" for refreshment and "Chocolate Amandine" for dessert. Doreen Juban was her adviser.

Gerard Penaflor, Nestlé Ice Cream marketing head for food services said contestants were able to transform Nestlé Ice Cream into a work of art.

Ong received P15,000 in cash and her adviser P7,500 from Nestlé.

Second prize winner was University of Santo Tomas' Rachelle Ann Garcia Manuel who received P10,000. Her adviser Elizabeth Guevarra got P5,000. Third placer Andrea La Verne Vasquez of St. Paul Manila got P5,000 and her adviser Estrella Lim-Garcia P2,500.

Penaflor said the public would have a chance to taste the winning Scoopetition entries as Nestlé would make them available in ice cream parlors, scooping stations, and other establishments.

Chef shares tips and healthy concoctions with fellow dieters

JEROME CARTAILLER, EXECUTIVE chef of Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, has come up with visually attractive dishes to help ease the misery of dieting to lose weight.

Cartailler's concoctions are taken from his own experience. The chef has trimmed down from 220 to 140 lbs in six months last year. He achieved the feat by restricting himself to a self-concocted, fat-free diet that was heavy on vegetables, moderate on protein and low on carbs.

Of course, he also worked on the treadmill everyday and built up such great resistance that he now joins 42-km marathons.

Cartailler has made the more appealing dishes from his own diet part of the menu of the Oak Room, Oakwood's sixth floor all-day dining lounge.

The Oak Room is accessed through the ground floor entrance of Oakwood, just beside the main entrance of Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center.

"Healthy Options" are entrees of less than 500 calories but are visual feasts.

They include the colorful Red Snapper on Ratatouille Vegetables; chicken breast perked with southern spices and served on a bed of spinach, with baked potato topped with cottage cheese on the side, steaming miso vegetable broth served with tofu and buckwheat noodles.

The chief also offers some tips to weight watchers:

- Never eat to get full. Eat merely what you need and not to get satiated.
- Diet food must not only look good, it must also look "plenty." He complements diet portions of meat and carbohydrates with lots of vegetables. Thinly sliced and slightly cooked carrots with a little butter, assorted greens and grilled vegetables with an extra virgin olive oil dressing, are possibilities.
- Think of creative ways to prepare vegetables. They may be stewed in curry sauce. Red, green and yellow peppers, zucchini, eggplant and tomatoes, among others, acquire interesting flavors when grilled. When stewed in tomato and other sauces, vegetables are great with fish, pork and chicken breast. An Oak Room entree is mushroom-stuffed vegetables in tangy tomato sauce.
- Change your eating habits one day at a time.

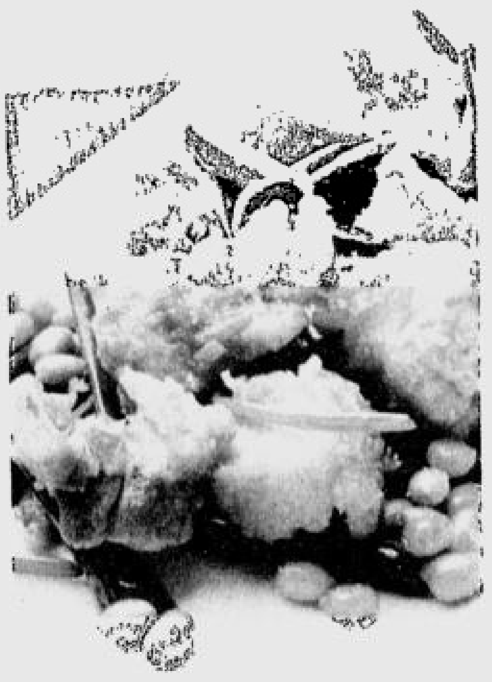
OAKWOOD Premier Ayala Center executive chef Jerome Cartailler

Lechon with a twist

CHEF CARLO ESTAGLE HAS COME UP with a new version of the popular *lechon* with *kangkong* for Hong Kong sauce-maker, Amoy.

Estagle combines soy and peanut-based sauce to turn *lechon kawali* into the easy-to-make Lechon Satay with Kangkong. Chicken can be substituted for *lechon* and spinach or any leafy green for *kangkong*.

Amoy Gold Light Soy Sauce is naturally-brewed, has no MSG and is lighter in color. Amoy Satay Sauce has a savory peanutty Asian flavor and may be a welcome addition to any barbecue. Amoy, recipient of the Hong Kong Superbrand for 2005/2006, had been the No. 1 soy sauce brand from Hong Kong for 10 consecutive years since 1994.



Lechon Satay with Kangkong

½ k *liempo*
½ tbsp sea salt
1 bundle lemongrass
vegetable oil, for frying
1 bundle *kangkong*, leaves and stems
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ medium onion, minced
2 tbsp Amoy Gold Label Light Soy Sauce
2-3 tbsp Amoy Satay Sauce
Home-fried Chinese Prawn Cracker Flakes, for garnish.

Submerge *liempo* and lemongrass in a saucepan of salted water. Bring the water to a rapid boil for 10 minutes, and then reduce the heat. Simmer until the meat is cooked. Set aside to cool.

Heat the oil in a wok. Toss in the *liempo* and fry until the skin bubbles and cracks. Cool and then slice. Set aside.

Lessen the oil in the wok where the *liempo* was fried. Leave at least a tablespoon of oil. Sauté the garlic and the onion. When the onion turns transparent, mix in the *kangkong* stems and leaves. After about 30 seconds, mix in the light soy. Cook for a minute more. When cooked, set aside.

In a bowl, mix together the *kangkong*, sliced crispy pork cutlets, and Amoy Satay Sauce. Serve on top of a bed of prawn crackers. Serves 4 to 6.

Indian restaurant wins award

FELIX Lao, chair of the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards, and Corazon Claudio, vice chair, presented the award to Karina Mahbubani and Roshni Ram of Queens Restaurant.

QUEENS CRYSTAL GARDEN Restaurant in Makati was named recently Most Outstanding Indian Restaurant in ceremonies held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

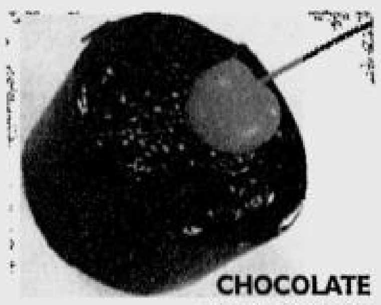
The award was one of those given under the Philippine Marketing Excellence Award of the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, Sales and Marketing Magazine and the Philippine Excellence Awards Institute.

Queens is known not only for Indian but also dishes from other countries earning it the title "Indian and Asian Fusion Restaurant." Some of the dishes are *Papadum masala*, chicken satay, chicken *tandoori*, *paneer sona* pizza and *gado-gado*. Its appetizers and desserts are also a combination of Indian and other Asian favorites.

Queens was recognized not only for its Indian cuisine, but also for its marketing practices that generated goodwill, high level customer confidence and market acceptability.

Queens Restaurant delivers in Makati. Call 4593663.

Three steps to 30-minute baking



CHOCOLATE Ganache Cake

BAKING IS NOT JUST FOR experts.

Maya Decadence mixes offer the satisfaction, rewards and surprise of baking gourmet treats, even for neophytes. By following three simple steps you can make this Chocolate Ganache Cake in 30 minutes or less using the Maya Decadence Devil's Food Cake Mix: 1) pre-heat, 2) mix and 3) bake.

Here are some tips to lessen baking time:

1. Go over the recipe at least twice, visualizing the steps.
2. Prepare everything before you start—ingredients, utensils and equipment.
3. Pre-measure all ingredients according to the recipe so all you need to do is pour everything into a bowl and mix.
4. Choose a time when you can bake without any interruptions to lessen or avoid stress.
5. If you're using an electric mixer, pre-heat the oven and as you put together all ingredients in the bowl and mix. But if you are going to mix the ingredients by hand, follow the recipe to the letter.
6. When you pre-heat the oven, you are already maximizing baking time. If the recipe calls for 20 minutes, the heat during the last five minutes shall allow the cake to bake. But make sure your oven is in perfect working condition. Results will be affected by the condition of your oven.
7. Clean the oven after use and have it serviced when necessary.

Chocolate Ganache Cake

Cake:
1 550-g pack Maya Decadence Devil's Food Cake Mix
¼ c vegetable oil
1 c water
2 eggs

Ganache:
2 c all-purpose cream
2 c chocolate, broken into pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and line two 8-inch round pans. Set aside. In a bowl, combine cake mix, oil, water and eggs.

Mix on low speed for 30 seconds using a wire whisk attachment. Scrape the sides of the bowl. Change speed of mixer to medium and continue beating for 2 minutes (if mixing by hand, mix for 2 ½ minutes or until mixture becomes smooth). Pour mixture into prepared pans and bake for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes before removing from pan.

Prepare Ganache. Place the cream in the pan and bring to a boil, stirring. Add the chocolate and stir until melted and combined. Pour into a mixer bowl and whisk until fluffy and cool, about 5 minutes. Reserve 1/3 of the ganache.

To assemble, put the first cake layer on a platter. Spread some of the ganache over the cake. Put the second layer on top then frost all over with the remaining ganache. Pipe the reserved ganache to cover the top of the cake. Decorate with chocolate shavings and drizzle with chocolate syrup. Chill before serving.

New baking aids

DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES launched its new products recently with a baking demonstration at SM City Cagayan de Oro.

The Del Monte Banana Puree, which can substitute for fresh bananas. Made of fresh Cavendish bananas with no sugar added, it is available in one kilo packs at P45 each.

The Del Monte All-Purpose Light Syrup can be used in making glazes for fruits and icings for cakes, especially fondants. It is a cheaper alternative to corn syrup. For pancakes, Del Monte offers its new Maple Syrup.

Made available last month were the new sweetened Del Monte Melon Chill Dispenser Juice and Del Monte Apple Dispenser Juice.

Both juices provide 100-percent of the RDA (recommended daily allowance) for Vitamin C.

For people watching their diets, Del Monte Food Service suggests guilt-free snacking with Del Monte Fiesta Fruit Cocktail and Golden Fancy Tidbits, no-sugar added, in 2.5 can size. Both products contain pineapples and other fruit combination in pineapple juice.

Banana Muffin/Banana Bread/Banana Cake

750 g brown sugar
225 g butter
200 g whole eggs
750 g all-purpose flour
40 g baking powder
10 g baking soda
350 g evaporated milk
1,000 g Del Monte Banana Puree

Cream sugar and butter until floppy. Add whole eggs, flour, baking powder, baking soda.

Pour evaporated milk and Del Monte Banana Puree as a last step. Bake at 400°F.

For Banana Muffins, bake for 12-15 minutes. For Banana Bread and Cake, bake for 30-35 minutes.

Makes 72 servings. Costs P164.25 per recipe or P2.28 per serving.

ENSAYMADA Piña

Ensaymada Piña

500 g all-purpose flour
1.75 g egg yolk
50 g oil
150 g water
80 g sugar
50 g melted butter
50 g evaporated milk
10 g yeast
Toppings:
200 g sugar
100 g melted butter
200 g cheese

Thoroughly mix all ingredients. Rest for 5 minutes. Divide dough into 70 grams pieces.

Flatten dough and spread with Del Monte Instant Piña Filling. Proof for two hours. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes.

Makes 13 servings. Costs P127.70 per recipe or P9.82 per serving.

Pizza Dough

500 g bread flour
500 g all-purpose flour
20 g Fermipan 2-1
550 g water
40 g sugar
17 g salt
41 g cooking oil

Develop dough in machine using spiral mixer. Rest for 5-10 minutes. Scale in desired weight. Bake at 350°F.

Makes nine servings. Costs P267.97 per recipe or P29.77 per serving.

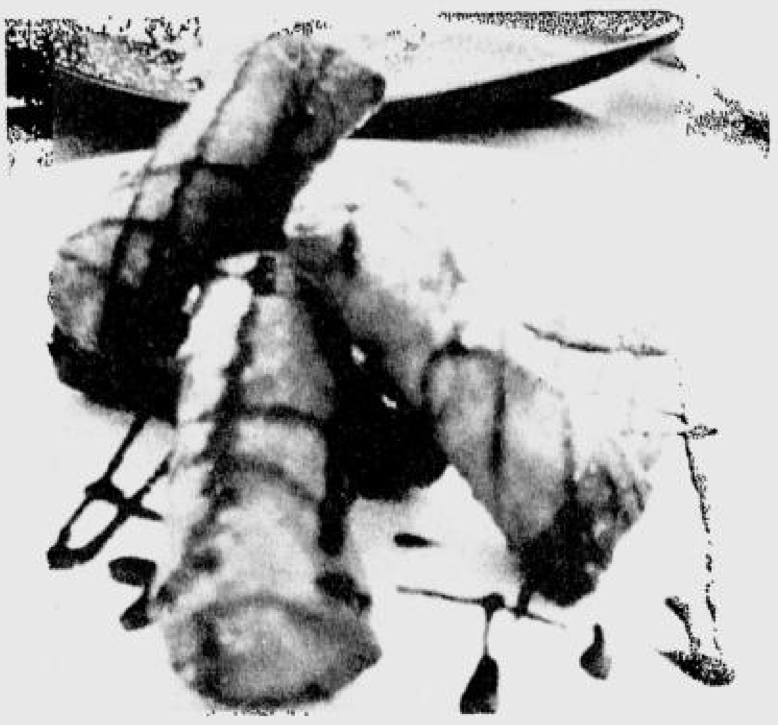
Brownies

Group Ingredients:
I. 225 g butter
665 g sugar
II. 250 g whole eggs
III. 420 all-purpose flour
120 g cocoa powder
12.6 g baking powder
IV. 300 g Del Monte Light Syrup
V. 100 g chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add alternately Group II and III. Pour Del Monte Light Syrup on the last stage. Bake at 350°F for 40-45 minutes.

Makes 60 servings. Costs P120.89 per recipe or P2.01 per serving.

'Quimsonizing' Filipino food



TURON leche flan

FILOS' cozy ambience JOSEPH AGCAOILI

From page C1

fect little black dress, it's all about the execution. The beauty of Filos' dishes lies in the fact that the ingredients take center stage—something actually very characteristic of real Filipino cooking.

For instance, an unembellished presentation of three kinds of *adobo* educates the customer on the various takes on this signature Filipino dish. There is the Adobong Kapampangan, which is the most widely used among the *adobo* recipes; the Adobo sa Puti, which is *adobo* in vinegar and garlic instead of soy sauce; and the Adobo sa Taal, also known as Adobo sa Dilaw. All three served together for pleasure and conversation.

Delightful killer

While remaining true to our roots, Chef Ed also explores bringing the Filipino palate to international favorites. Filos offers Cremang Laing, using *laing* instead of corn or mushroom for a creamy soup; Balut Pâté, a delightful killer of a four-inch block of chicken foie gras with an exotic *balut* aftertaste (you'll have to experience it to understand); and the most amazing Filipino pizza ever, which uses *tuyo* in place of anchovies and *adobo* flakes! It's different, but again, I found myself with happy saucer-wide eyes, pleasantly surprised.

Another thing your discerning tastebuds can look forward to at Filos is Chef Ed's mastery of texture. The appetizers and desserts boast of various spring roll concoctions that juxtapose brittle and blended, crunchy and creamy textures.

My favorite is the Turon Leche Flan, a dessert so good I could marry it. Your teeth dig into the crunchy wrap bathed in chocolate sauce and sugar powder that crumbles in your mouth as it ushers in the heavenly, light caramelized flan. It makes your soul swoon, like being serenaded with a sweet song. Again, simple dish, on-the-dot execution.

A close second is the Palitaw Ube: coarse and powdery outside, soft and chewy inside and semi-sweet both ways—a less delirious but equally recommendable alternative.

FILIPINO pizza that uses tuyo in place of anchovies and *adobo* flakes JOSEPH AGCAOILI

CHEF Ed Quimson and his team

Challenging feat

With quality food carefully selected by Chef Ed and interiors that exude an understated elegance, Filos aims to be the first Filipino fine-dining restaurant. A challenging feat, considering the nature of Filipino eating, which is more rowdy than refined, the clinking of plates and mixing of sauces an intrinsic part of the dining experience, the food meant to be eaten fresh from the sea or fresh from frying so the skin is crumble-crunchy, enjoyed with your bare hands, and shared with each other. (Why else would our food vocabulary revolve around words like *sipsip, higop, kamayin*?)

The nature of our food is simply against a fine-dining culture (not a bad thing!), so I'm not sure if this restaurant will ever catapult to the level of Spago's fine dining that it aims to achieve.

But forget Spago's. Filos is all about experiencing the Quimsonization of Filipino food: a mastery of provincial cuisine, an amazing play with tastes and textures, and a refinement of traditional favorites.

This restaurant reminds us why we so love Filipino cooking and then knowingly introduces us to unheard-of heavenly states Filipino cuisine can achieve.

Filos is at 1/L Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio.

Call 8180600 or 0917-8943858 for reservations.

E-mail the author at margauxsalcedo@yahoo.com.

A taste of Mexico

THE HYATT REGENCY MANILA'S MEDITERranean restaurant Café Al Fresco showcases the vibrant flavors of Mexican cuisine in "Guadalajara en Filipinas," until Sept. 28. Featured are the specialties of Guadalajara, capital of the province of Jalisco.

Guest culinary experts, executive chef Juan Manuel Garcia Armendariz and first cook Candita Brigida Gonsalez, both of the Hyatt Cancun Caribe Villas and Resort, are offering, among others, Arroz a la Mexicana (Mexican rice), Tomate y Queso Ranchero (tomato and cheese ranchero), Fajitas Mixtas (various fajitas), Frijoles Fritos con Chorizo (refried Mexican beans with sausage). The daily lunch buffet costs P790+ while dinner is P850+. Call 8331234 local 81423.

DINING OUT

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie features Mediterranean Gourmet Lunch this month. Available Monday to Friday, the promo allows one to order as much as he likes from the a la carte menu for P1,200+ per person. For an additional P600+ per person, he can have bottomless wine with his meal. Call 8159711.

MANDARIN Oriental's The Tivoli presents The Sinful Pleasures of Foie Gras and Champignons until Sept. 25. The promo features goose liver from France and fresh mushrooms in selections like Goose Liver Terrine with warm preserved quince and roasted lemon brioche; Viennese Roasted Veal Shoulder Fillet on young romaine hearts with seared cep mushrooms; Grilled Portabello Risotto topped with sauteed duck liver and wilted pea sprouts. Call 7508888.

DUSIT HOTEL offers Benkay's Seafood Kakalage Treats for September. This set menu is composed of Japanese rice served in a bowl topped with fried shrimp, squid, *maya-maya* and vegetables. Each set menu comes with an appetizer, miso soup and pickle relish. Call 8673333.

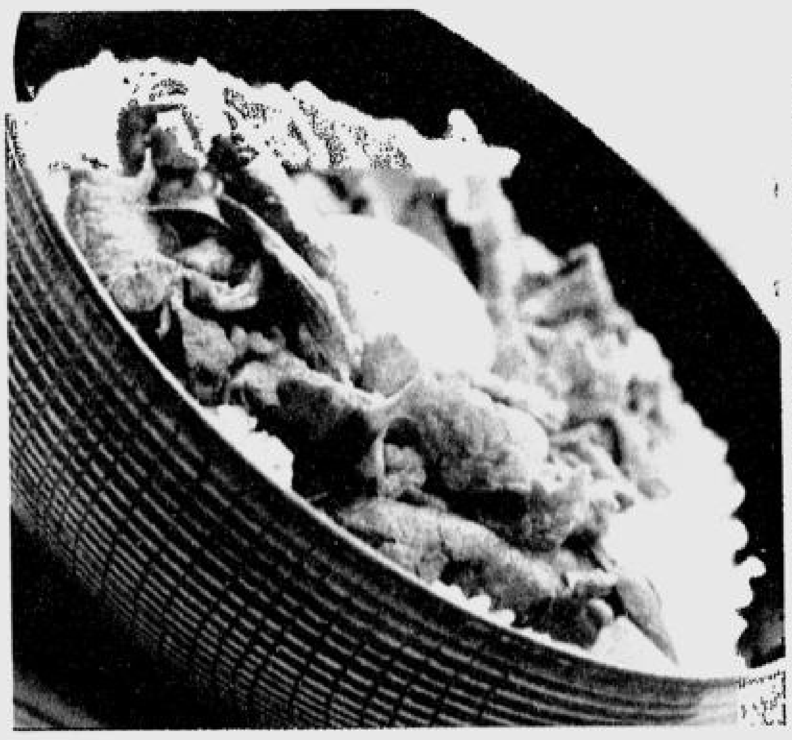
THE BELLEVUE Hotel's pastry corner at its Lobby Lounge offers Ube Ensaymada. Its soft bread is smothered with butter and sugar, filled with *ube* and topped with grated cheese. Call 7718181.

MATI features Chicken Souvlaki, Zuchini and Potato Croquettes, Gyros, Horiatiki Salad, Lamb Keftedis, Mousaka, Pumpkin Soup, Saccalop Salad, Seafood Croquette and Shrimp Saganaki Pasta. Mati is located at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati.

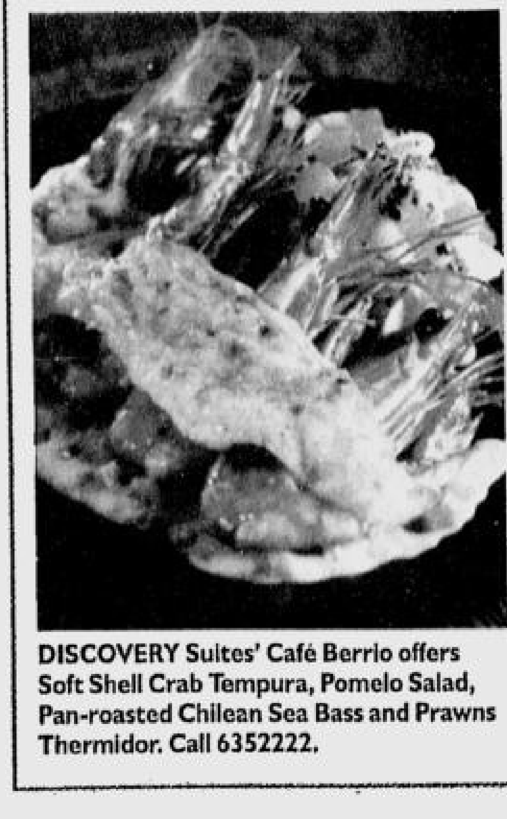
KITARO offers ramen dishes like Seafood Ramen, Gyoza Ramen and Shoyu Ramen for P98. Also available are Miso Ramen and Shoyu Ramen, both at only P89. Call 9111115.

COWBOY Grill Lite offers *sisig* in different variants—original recipe, chicken, tuna and *pusit*. Cowboy Grill Lite is at the 2/F of Parkside Square, United Nations Avenue corner Maria Orosa Street, Manila.

TGI FRIDAY'S presents Chef Selects. The menu includes Roasted Bone-in Chicken, Grilled Pork Medallion, Char-grilled Fillet Mignon, Garlic Marinated Grilled Lamb Chop, Sauteed White Fish, Pasta with White Wine Demi Glace and Flourless Chocolate Cake. TGI Friday's is located at Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Tomas Morato, QC and Sta. Lucia East.



KARATE Kid Japanese Fastfood offers sashimi, sushi, makimono, ramen, tempura, snacku meals, Tonkatsu, Ika Fry, Beef Teriyaki, Chicken Teriyaki and Oishi Saver Meals. Karate Kid is located at Robinsons Place Manila (5368060), SM Fairview (4190805), SM Sta. Mesa (7144013) and SM San Lazaro (7862556).



DISCOVERY Suites' Café Berrio offers Soft Shell Crab Tempura, Pomelo Salad, Pan-roasted Chilean Sea Bass and Prawns Thermidor. Call 6352222.

Retro cooking

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culinary Arts is offering the following classes:

Sept. 23—Best of Gourmet Pinoy Poultry 2002: Balut Terrine, Duck Adobo with Foie Gras Sauce and Fruit Jam Relish, Nilagang Pavo with Spring Vegetables, Pastel de Pollo, Side Dishes and Pandan Sago in Creme Anglaise

Sept. 24—The Ultimate Crepe Workshop: Savory, Herbed, Chocolate and Dessert Crepe Recipes. Filling: mushroom, ham, cheese, seafood, chicken (over eight savory filling variations); Dessert Crepe Buffet (mixed fruits, creams and sauces); Delicious Crepe Suzette and Crepe Samurai

Sept. 26—Tilapia (all new): Pan-fried with Anchovy Tomatoes and Kalamansi, Steamed Tilapia with Yellow Beans, Tilapia en Papillote, Whole-baked, Fried with Asian Dipping Sauces, Anchovy Poached, In Grape Sauce, With Coconut Milk; side dishes

Sept 28—Best of Gourmet Pinoy Meat and Seafood 2002: Buko Springrolls, Seafood Molo en Croute, Grilled Salmon with Champagne Sotanghon and Caviar Pearls, Bulalo Steaks with Spring Vegetables, Roasted Lamb Rack with Kamias Jelly, side dishes and dessert

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, or 0917-8399888.

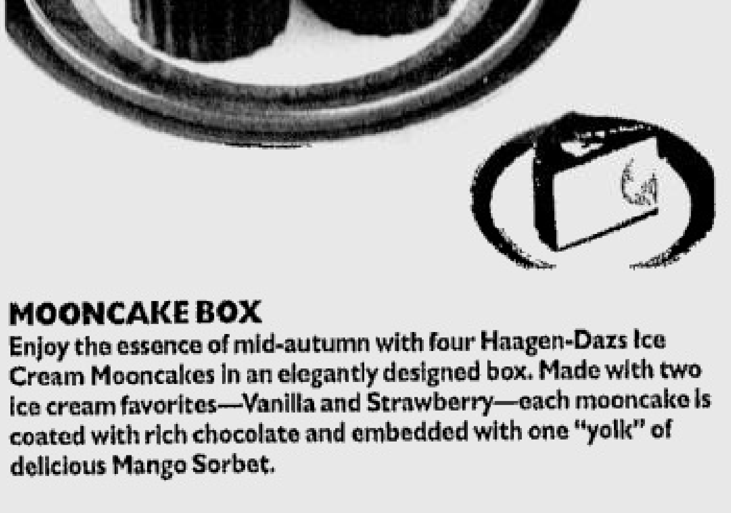
Malaysian cooking class

DISCOVER AND LEARN Malaysia's diverse flavors influenced by Malay, India, Eurasian and Chinese cuisine.

San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center features Malaysian chef See Cheong Yan in "A Taste of Malaysia" 1:30-4:30 p.m., Oct. 7, at the San Miguel Culinary Center, Legazpi corner Eagle Sts., Barrio Ugong, Pasig City.

Minimum fee is P700 (inclusive of snacks).

Call 6719876 local 2771, 402, 404 and 405. Limited slots available.



MOONCAKE BOX

Enjoy the essence of mid-autumn with four Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Mooncakes in an elegantly designed box. Made with two ice cream favorites—Vanilla and Strawberry—each mooncake is coated with rich chocolate and embedded with one "yolk" of delicious Mango Sorbet.

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

Chicken Tinola con Guyabano—grandma's healthful chicken soup

By Ma. Leila G. Medel

LACTATING MOTHERS need to take more fluids or soup to produce more milk for the baby.

This is a lesson taught by many old folks that persist until now particularly in rural areas. Usually, a lactating mother is given *tinolang manok* with papaya.

My grandmother had an alternate version of this traditional dish—Chicken *Tinola con Guyabano*. A very nutritious dish, it helps hasten the recovery of kids from colds. *Guyabano* is a very good source of Vitamin C.

This recipe has been in our family for three generations. Now that I am a mother of two kids (a girl and a boy), I often serve this dish to my family who loves it.

My mother also recommended this to other members of the family, including in-laws. They agree it is superb!

CHICKEN Tinola con Guyabano

Chicken-Guyabano Stew

1 k chicken, cut into serving pieces
1 k young *guyabano*, cut into desired pieces
2 c *sili* leaves
4 segments of garlic, pounded
1 onion, sliced
Patis or salt to taste
Oil for frying
Lemongrass
Achuete for color
Rice water

Fry garlic and ginger in cooking oil until golden brown. Add onion. Drop chicken and season with *patis*. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add rice water and simmer until chicken is tender. Add *guyabano*, *achuete*, lemongrass and cook. Season well. Add *sili* leaves. Serve hot.

Editor's note: Winner may claim P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks from Hazel Soriaga of our Marketing Department, PDI office.

You might be cooking a winner

THE FAMILY RECIPES that you're turning into favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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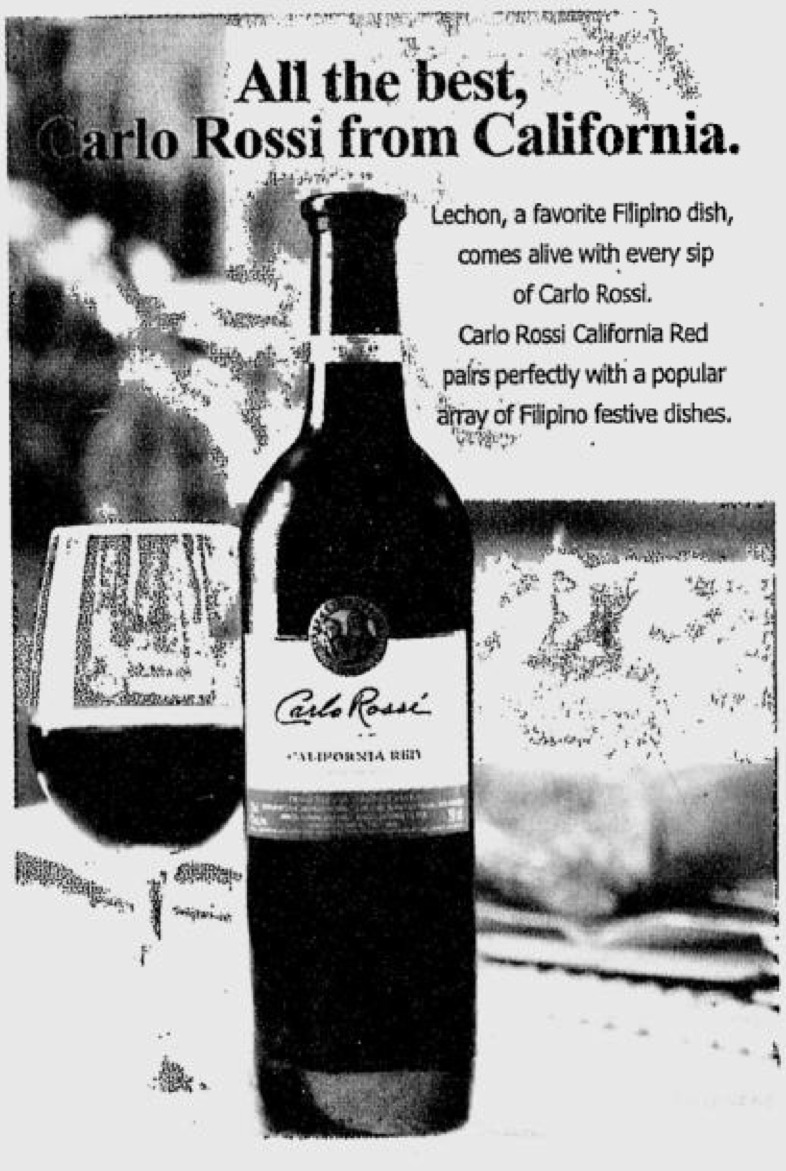

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.

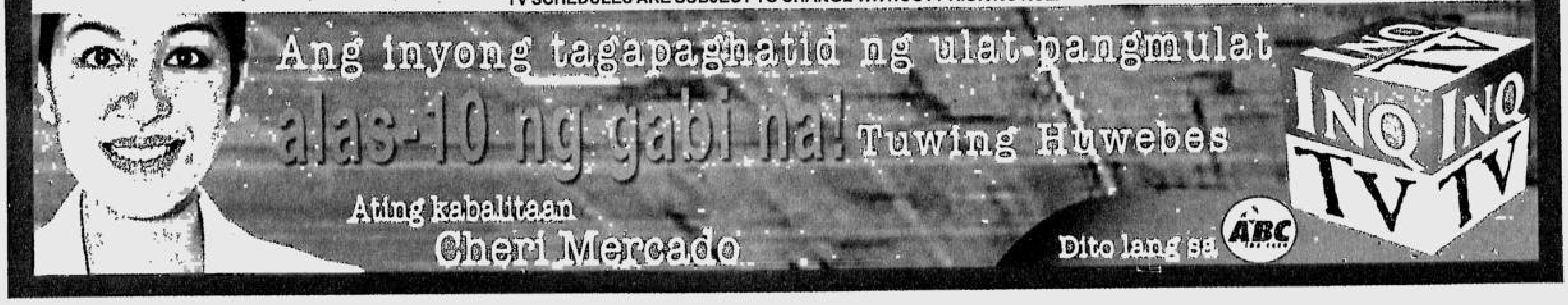
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, September 22, 2005

Wow maling MaLi! featuring PINAY Big Sister
ABC
Sabado 9pm

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo							
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Asian X-Games Thailand				Sentro	Brunei Cup					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Traffic		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		Man of Power	Sports X-Press	King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Japan Video Topics	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherd's Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams	Wild N' Out	MTV Pop Inc.		Boiling Points	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	2005 MTV Video Music Awards				Diyos		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Lokal	Brand New	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN	Major League Baseball						LPGA Golf					Sportscenter Asia			Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports		TV Shopping	WTA 2005			FIVB World Grand Prix '05							Sports Desk			Greatest Classics			
Cinemax				Tarzan Goes To India (4:15 PM)			Free Willy 3 The Rescue(5:45 PM)			Death Becomes Her (7.15 PM)				Body Snatchers			American Crime (10.25PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed & Manipulation	Judging Amy (10.35PM)		Mysterious Way (11.25PM)		
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/ [illegible] Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Zero Hour		One Step Beyond	Evolver	Extreme Engineering		Austin Stevens		Battlegroup		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Mission Mars		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ [illegible] Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	Growing Up Gotti & Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter	Rockstar	Arrested Development/ Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN						Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero			Worst Case Scenario		24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me				Cinematch	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		The Door In The Floor			The Fighting Temptations(4:45PM)				The Core (6.45PM)					Daddy Day Care			Sex And The City 88: The Ick Factor	Sex And The City 89: Catch-38	Jade (11.35PM)
Star Movies				Two Bits (4:15.PM)			K-911 (5.45.PM)				Romy & Michele's Hi-School Reunion (7:20PM)	Legally Blonde 2: Red White & Blonde			Urban Legend (10:35PM)				
Cinema One		Tugtuging Bukid				Kapag Puso'y Sinugatan				Anghel Na Walang Langit				Infection				Sampung Ahas Ni Eba	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
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INQ TV

A FRUITFUL
Mindanao tasting /D2

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The legend of the durian

The 'alamat' says the fruit was created to win the love of a young bride

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

DAY TWO OF OUR DAVAO TRIP STARTED with our duties. When that was done, Sally and I did the obvious, shopping!

First stop, Durian Park on Torres Street for the Durian Festival. I was at Rosario's, the stall with the most varieties, some 13 in all. Eyeth, the kind lady who attended to us, opened each and every variety, even filling us in on some top secret *durian* facts, as well as the *alamat* of the first *durian*...

Barom-Mai was an old, ugly king who lived in a place called Calinan (Mindanao) hundreds of years ago. Although he was powerful, he was helpless in winning the love of his young bride, Madayaw-Bayho, daughter of Tageb, king of the pirates.

The king asked his advisers to help him win his bride's love. Matimgam, the wisest adviser, told him about Impit Purok, a hermit who lived in a cave in Mt. Apo.

They went to see the hermit and he asked for three things: the egg of a black *tabon* bird to soften the bride's heart, 12 ladles of fresh milk from a pure white carabao to make her kind and nectar from the flower of the tree of make-believe to make her see Barom Mai as a young and handsome king.

Pawikan, the king of the sea turtles, got the eggs. The king's cook got him the milk and Hangin-Bai, the nymph of air, took him to her sister, the wood nymph who had the magic flower in her hair.

Barom Mai gave Impit Purok what he asked for. Impit Purok told the king to throw a feast after the king won Madayaw-Bayho's love and that he be invited as the monarch's guest of honor.

Impit Purok mixed the three ingredients and told Barom-Mai to plant the mixture in the royal garden. The morning after, a tree grew. The fruit smelled sweet and tasted good.

When Madayaw-Bayho was given the fruit, she fell in love with the king. So a big feast was held but Impit Purok was forgotten. In return, Impit Purok cursed the fruit— the sweet smell was replaced with foul odor and the fruit's smooth skin was covered with thorns...

Thus, the *durian* as we know it today. And some of the best *durian* are grown in Calinan.

After spending three hours in the park, I had six varieties packed: Kimlangan, GD69, Nanaman, Duyaya (hybrid produced by Eyeth's father-in-law, Vering Belviz, farmer, agriculturist, scientist), Puyat and the Davao native, varieties I strongly urge all *durian* lovers to try as each and every variety has its own distinct character—some are milder in aroma yet more intense in flavor, the others creamier, close to buttery even—all equally delicious!

An added attraction at Rosario's stall was Gian, a cute little boy who knew his stuff and strutted around like a real *durian* pro. He helped open up the *durian* and packed them "Manila" style just for me.

GIAN, the Durian Boy Wonder, at Rosario's Stall during the Durian Festival

'Asean' store

Sweet smelling and durian-ed out, Aldevinco was the next destination, a shopper's paradise where the best of not just Mindanao but Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia—name it—are at your fingertips and this time for way cheaper than a song! No visitor should leave without dropping by.

Tired and hungry, craving for nothing but *adobo*, Sally was not fortunate enough to keep me away from Chippens. She had *adobo* and mini *lumpiang ubod* prepared, it was the kind of comfort I needed after a long day.

Later, I discovered that she had a bakery that sold practically nothing except white loaf bread. To my delight, it was tasty bread from my youth, no preservatives, chemicals, or extenders, the kind that melts in your mouth. The last time I had anything like it, was when my *lola* was still alive.

We ended the evening at Blue Grey Cafe to try out Durian Coffee, or so I thought. But Davao and its people are filled with surprises. Waiting at the hotel lobby was a gift from one fine lady, Baby Montemayor—a box of the coveted MD 2 pineapple from Davco. Gene Gonzalez gets tickled pink by the mere mention of this pineapple. (But then again, many things tickle him pink!) And rightfully so. It is terribly sweet and juicy, colored a rich yellow and crunchy as could be, a piña colada tasting variety.

At 7.40 a.m. on Sunday, I left Davao to make it to family lunch, taking everything that I fell in love with home with me. As my trip came to an end, the memories lingered on, and there are only good ones. The best memory of all is that I spent P600 for my fruits and P1,300 for excess baggage charges.

My take-home Davao feast was a huge success—from my antipasto made of feta and mushrooms from Malagos, GenSan sashimi, *lechon*, *tableya* cake, my very large fruit platter, down to my six *durian* varieties degustation, shared with family and washed down with *bignay* wine... I say, this, is the good life!

Delicious Durian Yema

½ k *durian* pulp
1 c condensed milk
6 egg yolks

Cook, stirring until mixture is thick. Add 2 tbsp. butter. Cool, roll into balls then roll in sugar.

Next week more *durian* recipes and then some...

Durian - 0917-7047886; Pineapple Davco - 082-2352144. They deliver to Manila

Chippens- 0918-9213734; Blue Grey Cafe - 0917-8080303.

Source: "Alamat" by Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

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GOLD MEDALIST
Academia de Gastronomos
Madrid, Spain - 1964

Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 cooking schools in Hongkong

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA

Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

LEARN AND EARN! PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

Leni Reynoso-Araullo

CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, CHICAGO, U.S.A. - ONLY ONE IN THE PHILIPPINES
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

SEP 22 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM - ANG SARAP PANGNEGOSYO!- 2 VERSIONS OF THE NEWEST, CHEWIEST CHOCO CRINKLES IN MANILA, GIANT MANGO MERINGUE WALNUT TORTE, CLASSIC AMERICAN APPLE PIE, FRENCH STREUSEL APPLE PIE. **P1,200 BY MORELLA**

SEPT 23 & 30 FRI 2:00 - 6:00PM - LEARN TO MAKE, BOTTLE & PRESERVE IN 2 LESSONS ! P1,800. MANGO JAM, PINEAPPLE MANGO APPLE SAUCE FOR ROAST TURKEY & PORKLOIN, FRESH ORANGE MARMALADE; GUAVA JAM; UBE, STRAWBERRY, FRESH LEMON CURD MARMALADE **NO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED. BY LENI**

SEPT 24 SAT 2:30 -6:00PM BEST SELLER OVEN BAKED CHICKEN PIES IN MUFFIN CUPS: FLAKY EMPANADA; MELTS IN THE MOUTH MAMMON, MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SLICES; PUTO PAO BONUS RECIPES OF MACAROONS; PUTO FLOUR UBE AND TRI-COLORED PUTO **P1,200 BY MORELLA**

SEPT 25 SUN 2:30 -6:00PM REYNOSO GALA & ARAULLO KAKANIN! MELTS IN THE MOUTH SPECIAL RICE BIBINGKA; SAPIN-SAPIN ESPESYAL; DELICIOUS EASY TO MAKE RICE SUMAN, HOMEMADE HOPIA WITH MONGO OR UBE FILLING BONUS RECIPE; APONG METYANG'S CASSAVA CAKE **P1,500 BY MORELLA**

SEPT 26 MON 2:30 - 6:00PM SOFTEST DOUGHNUTS FOR BUSINESS! NO OVEN NOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED. INCLUDES CHOCOLATE AND MARBLED DOUGHNUTS WITH SEVERAL FILLINGS; ICINGS, DIPS; PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF THICK SPANISH CHOCOLATE AND CHURROS. **P1,200 BY MORELLA**

SEPT 27 TUES 2:30 - 6:00PM BUSINESS BAKESHOP BEST SELLERS! BIG UNIFORM SIZED FROZEN UP TO 6 MONTHS SILVANAS (MINI SANS RIVAL), BRAZO DE MERCEDES, CLASSIC CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE, MACAPUNO PANDAN CAKE WITH MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING. **P1,200 BY MORELLA**

SEPT 28 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM MONEY MAKING FAST FOOD CART SPECIALTIES BY MORELLA. DELICIOUS CORN DOGS, WAFFLE WITH HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE / CARAMEL, NACHOS "TOPOTOS" WITH MONTEREY MEAT FILLING AND CHEESE DIP, HOMEMADE SHAWARMA WRAP WITH BEEF FILLING AND CHEESE DIP **P1,200**

SEPT 29 THUR 2:30 - 6:00PM THE LATEST MONEY-MAKING HOTEL AND BAKESHOP BEST-SELLERS! CHOCO LAVA CAKES (CHOCO CENTERS WILL OOZE OUT), "TARTUFO" (ITALIAN DOME CHOCOLATE COVERED ICE CREAM CAKE WITH CHOCO CAKE BASE. CAN BE FROZEN FOR A MONTH OR MORE), CREAM PUFFS WITH BAVARIAN & CHOCO FILLING WITH 2 GLAZES. THE YUMMIEST OF NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL OF CHEF INSTRUCTRESS **LORRIE REYNOSO'S BAKED CHEESE CAKE. P1,200. BY MORELLA**

OCT 1 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - THE BEST OVEN-BAKED PAELLA ROAST STUFFED MAGNOLIA JUMBO CHICKEN, PASTEL DE LENGUA, CALLOS MADRILENA, BLACK FOREST #2. IDEAL FOR CATERERS AND PARTY GIVERS. **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 4 TUE 2:30 - 6:00PM PUT UP A STEAKHOUSE. LEARN THE TECHNIQUES TO COOKING THE JUICIEST MONTEREY PORTERHOUSE STEAKS, BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAK A LA POBRE, DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY, CAESAR SALAD, ROAST ORANGE PORK LOIN, BEST SELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI WITH 2 SAUCES. MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 5 WED 2:30 - 6:15PM - HOLIDAY ROAST BUTTERBALL TURKEY WITH HAM - RAISIN STUFFING & GRAVY , WHITE FRUITCAKE RIBBON PASTA WITH WILD MUSHROOM TRIFOLATI, DELICIOUS CHICKEN PILAF WITH OLIVES. CENTURY TUNA FISHCAKES WITH BACON SPINACH SIDINGS AND CARAMELIZED ONIONS, BAKED BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

OCT 6 & 13 - 2 THURSDAYs 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAKE MONEY-BY LEARNING 15 DELICIOUS RECIPES IN 2 LESSONS. P2,200. SPECIAL FRUIT-CAKE, 3 VERSIONS OF BROWNIES (DOUBLE CHOCOLATE FUDGE, CHOCOLATE CARAMEL FUDGE, WALNUT-TOPPED DARK AND LIGHT BARS) 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF WELL-KNOWN MUFFINS, 5 DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES. **FOR TEENAGERS & ABOVE. BY ERNEST.**

OCT 7 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - 7 FINGER PARTY FOOD WITH COCKTAIL PUNCH - QUICHE LORRAINE (CHEESE CUSTARD SQUARES); MONTEREY BEEF TERIYAKI KEBABS W/ GARLIC YOGURT; CENTURY TUNA IN EGG POUCHES (HOMEMADE CREPES); DEBONED AND STUFFED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WINGS; CRUNCHY W/ NUTS FRIED CHICKEN LOLLIPOPS W/ TARTARE SAUCE; CRISPY STUFFED SHRIMPS, MAGNOLIA CHICKEN POPSICLES W/ BROWN MUSHROOM GRAVY; NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS **LORRIE REYNOSO'S PUNCH. P1,500. BY SYLVIA & ERNEST**

OCT 8 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES II LEARN 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! SHABU-SHABU WITH 2 SAUCES; ASSORTED CRISPY TEMPURA; GRILLED PORK AND BEEF SLICE; UDON (VERY SPECIAL NOODLES) FRIED TOFUS IN SPECIAL SAUCE; BREADED CHICKEN WINGS W/ VINEGAR SAUCE; JAPANESE MIXED FRIED RICE. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF COMPLETE SUSHI BAR. **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 10 MON - 2:30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS - CHEESE ROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL W/ FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS. BREAD BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 11 TUE - 2:30 - 6:00PM THAI NOODLES, RICE, DESSERTS 3! (9 RECIPES) THAI STREET NOODLES, PAD THAI, CURRIED NOODLES WITH BEEF, CRAB FRIED RICE, PORK FRIED RICE, BLACK RICE PUDDING, TAPIOCA PUDDING, THAI CUSTARD, SQUASH WITH COCONUT CREAM **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 12 WED 2:30 -6:00PM 2 KINDS OF ROASTBEEF MONTEREY STANDING RIB-ROAST AND BACON WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST WITH GRAVY, CREMA DE FRUTA, SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE, FRIED SQUID RINGS, CHICKEN ALEXANDER, SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER. **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 14 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - GRILLING, SIZZLING, FRYING! BEST SELLERS! SISIG CAPAMPANGAN. SIZZLING TADYANG NG BAKA, NEW BONELESS MAGNOLIA CHICKEN FILLET BBQ ON STICKS, KWEK-KWEK (COATED QUAIL EGGS ON A STICKS WITH SWEET AND SOUR SAUCE). CRISPY BUCHI ASADO PAO **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 15 SAT 2:30AM - 6:15PM LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO WITH MEAT FILLING AND PICKLED MUSTASA) FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELLENADO, QUIKIAM WITH RADISH SALAD, STEAMED LAPU-LAPU. **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 17 MON 2:30 - 6:00PM OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES. MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN) THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS, FETTUCINE ALFREDO, SPAGHETTI CARBONARA, BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON, PEACH-FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 18 TUES 2:30 - 6:00PM - SUPPLY COFFEE SHOPS & CANTEENS WITH 9 BESTSELLERS! CHEWY CHOCO MALLOW BARS; LEBANESE DATE BOAT TARTS; LENGUA DE GATO; SPECIAL POLVORON; CHOCO CRINKLES; BUTTERSCOTCH BROWNIES; DATE WALNUT COOKIES; RUSSIAN TEA COOKIES; YUMMY CHOCO CHIP COOKIES **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 19 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS WITH HOISIN SAUCE. - MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS IN HONEY SAUCE; (SATE A JAM) CHICKEN SKEWERS IN PEANUT SAUCE, BEEF RIBS WITH PEKING NOODLES; DELICIOUS PORK SPARERIBS, NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBECUE;NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN, FRIED RICE); FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA'S CHICKEN HONEY; THE BEST PORK BARBECUE WITH SPECIAL PEANUT SAUCE. **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 20 THURS 2:30 - 5:30PM - MONEY MAKING CHINESE FAST-FOOD RECIPES. WONTON NOODLE SOUP, DELICIOUS MAKI SOUP; STIR FRIED LOMI, KUTCHAY DUMPLINGS WITH EASY TO MAKE HOMEMADE WRAPPER; PORK CURRY RICE; AUTHENTIC CHINESE STYLE SHRIMP FRIED RICE. **P1,500 BY SYLVIA**

OCT 21 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN - JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN WITH GRAVY; CHICKEN BURGER; DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD; SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS; 4 SEASONS PUNCH; RIPE MANGO JUICE; MELON TAPIOCA WITH SAGO; GREEN MANGO JUICE **P1,500 BY SYLVIA**

OCT 22 SAT 2:30 - 5:30PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT - LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES: KIMCHI; SPINACH SALAD MIXED RICE WITH KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBEQUE; DEEP FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE); ROSE KUI; KOREAN BEEF STEW-TOPPED RICE. PLUS KITCHEN - TESTED BONUS RECIPES. **P1,500 BY SYLVIA**

OCT 24 MON 2:30 - 5:30PM - PASTAS AND SALAD FESTIVALS! 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! BEEFY CHEESEY BAKED MACARONI, SPAGHETTI W/ PHILADELPHIA CREAM SAUCE; MEXICAN CORNMEAL CASSEROLE; SCALOPPED POTATOES SMOTHERED W/ KRAFT MOZZARELLA CHEESE; CHICKEN ASPARAGUS SALAD; CETURY TUNA APPLE SALAD; VEGETABLE BOWL W/ FRENCH DRESSING; MELTINGLY DELICIOUS EGG CASSEROLE **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 25 TUE 2:30 - 5:30PM - 6 HOTSHOT CHICKEN RECIPES. TENDER ROAST MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W/ SAUSAGE-APPLE STUFFING, CRISPY CHICKEN ROLLS, CRUNCHY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS W/ CREAMY GRAVY, BAKED NUT STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS, CHICKEN CROQUETTES W/ CHEESY SAUCE, CHICKEN BREASTS W/ MUSHROOM GRAVY ON FRENCH BAKER'S WHOLE WHEAT BREAD. **P1,500. BY ERNEST**

OCT 26 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - EASY HONGKONG RESTAURANT COURSE - SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE STEAKS W/ MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN; SHRIMP & CRAB CLAWS AND BALLS IN NEST W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE, HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER; MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST W/ CASUY; LAPU-LAPU FILLET IN CREAM OF CORN SAUCE; LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER-GARLIC SPRITE. **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

OCT 27 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM - DELICIOUS DIMSUM STYLE PORK SPARERIBS: SPICY CHICKEN FEET; SHRIMPS ON TOAST, BUCHI W/ SESAME SEEDS; AUTHENTIC HONGKONG-CHINESE CONGEE W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS. FISH FILLET; PORK; SZECHUAN VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA; SHRIMP, PORK LIVER, KIDNEY, PIG STOMACH. **P1,500. BY SYLVIA**

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'Lots of fruits' in North Cotabato means more than just a bowl

EDGARDO Lagman of Sungee in Davao opens one of many varieties tasted at the Durian Park.

HAPPY faces amid mounds of *rambutan* at the Timpupo, Kidapawan's fruit festival

A fruitful Mindanao tasting

Text and photos by Michaela Fenix
Contributor

AFTER A FIVE-HOUR DRIVE FROM Cagayan de Oro, we arrived in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, a little after noon. Streamers announced the fruit festival to be held in the next few days. *Timpupo* is how they called it, accent on the last syllable.

Our host, baking teacher and consultant, Jill Sandique, said it meant time for picking from the tree. She also told us we were visiting at the right time. August was the height of the fruit harvest.

We knew what to expect. Lots of *mangosteen, durian* and *rambutan*. But lots meant more than just a bowl of fruits. On our arrival, it was one huge basket each of *rambutan* and *mangosteen* that welcomed us. Over the two days of our visit, the baskets were always be full. Then, at the end of our stay, a goodbye package of crates and boxes filled to the brim.

The hairy *rambutan* (*Nephelium lappaceum*) were extra big, juicy and sweet. Sandique was such an expert opening the fruit. Using only her fingers she knew how to twist the peel so that the upper half was easily removed. Years of eating great *rambutan* must have honed that skill. I had to use my Swiss knife to keep up.

The *mangosteen* (*Garcinia mangostana*) was easier to open. Just twist off the stem, squeeze the fruit and the thick skin opens. If the stem doesn't yield, it's best to throw the fruit away because it's rotten. Kidapawan *mangosteen* are generally smaller so the seeds are smaller. Yet no matter how sweet the fruit is, the tart taste persists.

While having our fill of the white seeds, we wondered about the process of extracting the super beneficial goodness of the thick skin we were discarding. *Mangosteen* extract is the biggest thing these days, the answer to every ailment and, surprisingly, processed in the United States. Or so it says in the bottles that contain the extracts.

Because we were concentrated on the two fruits, no one noticed or touched the basket of *lanzones* (*Aglaia domestica*) so I can't say whether it's as sweet as the Davao *duco* variety or the one in Camiguin.

BACKYARD *rambutan* tree heavy with fruits

GUESTS having their first taste of sweet fruits at the Sandique home

TABLES heaped with harvested Kidapawan fruits at the Timpupo

But after a rather big lunch of *lechon*, grilled huge *tilapia* and the Cotabato version of *pakbet*, we were served *marang* (*Artocarpus odoratissima*), one each if we wanted to. The *marang* can't last beyond its peak ripeness so we were glad to have it just then. For those unfamiliar with the fruit, it's similar in construction to the *langka* or jackfruit but is smaller in size yet infinitely sweeter and juicier.

Decoding durian

Just like the *marang*, the arrival of *durian* (*Durio zibethinus*) is always preceded by that strong smell. Little did we know that we would have a sort of taste test of several varieties. The thick skin was already discarded and the fluffy interior of this wonderful fruit was brought in. Sandique's mother, Dr. Carlota or Lita, was enumerating each, calling each variety by a code name all beginning with S for their surname.

FLESHY durian pieces waiting to be tasted

As each new batch came, the flavors seemed to get better and the quality creamier. I've met some *durian* connoisseurs who like to describe what they taste when sampling the fruit. One of them said he detected the flavor of cappuccino. Another one said *pastillas de leche*.

I forget what code name was my favorite but it certainly was one of the native pure varieties. While it's much more aromatic, it was so milky and had a little bitter taste that, to many *durian* enthusiasts, made it the best.

Others loved the Thai variety, the more yellow, less smelly kind. But what got the most votes was the mixture of native and Thai, what is known as Arancillo, named after a government functionary in the Bureau of Plant Industry who first combined both. It was yellowish in color, had more flesh than the native kind and was also less smelly.

Durian is the only fruit that can make you either a fanatic or totally averse to it. When you are fan and you find someone like yourself, you feel a certain kinship that the "other side" doesn't have. This is why it's only in Davao City that the Durian Park of Sungee Corporation (a fruit exporter) made sense to me.

When Sungee announced its own Durian Park near the Manila Domestic Airport, my reaction was, who would go there? But in Davao, people do go there to picnic on the fruit. They sit at picnic tables and eat what they bought at the *durian* warehouse nearby.

Sungee marketing manager Edgardo Lagman led us to one table and opened different varieties. The Arancillo was there, a real favorite even in Davao, he said. Then he opened a mild variety called Lacson, for beginners in Manila, he said. Then there was the Puyat, a bit more aromatic. Like the Arancillo, those were named after people who experimented with mixing varieties.

Fruits as cash crop

Durian eaters will invariably tell you certain musts when eating the fruit. You wash your hand with water that passes through the inner skin to remove the smell. You drink cola or any soft drink while eating *durian* to release some of the heat and richness of the fruit. That way you burp otherwise your body will heat up.

So I did as suggested and regretted it because I felt so bloated and couldn't eat my dinner. On the other hand, the fruit is so rich you'd have all the calories you need for the day. But why worry about smell and heat? When you eat *durian*, you know what you're getting yourself into.

THE SANDIQUES: Dr. Carlota and Jill

An INQUIRER report said Mindanao "was the biggest producer of fruits... accounting for almost 70 percent of the country's total food production and contributing $503 million from exports." The Agriculture Department said *durian* would be planted in more areas. The report didn't say that *durian* was now planted as far north as La Union and in the Visayas, in Negros Occidental.

We saw the abundance in Mindanao and tasted the quality first-hand in Kidapawan and Davao City. And so, the Timpupo in Kidapawan celebrated a bountiful fruit harvest.

Our schedule didn't permit our attending the festival itself but we did have our own private festival at the Sandiques. We regretted, too, that we couldn't bring home all the fruits given to us because the little we did already tipped the baggage scale to overweight. I had to pay for the excess but it was worth it because fruit is so cheap and plentiful in the southernmost major island of the country, Mindanao.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com.

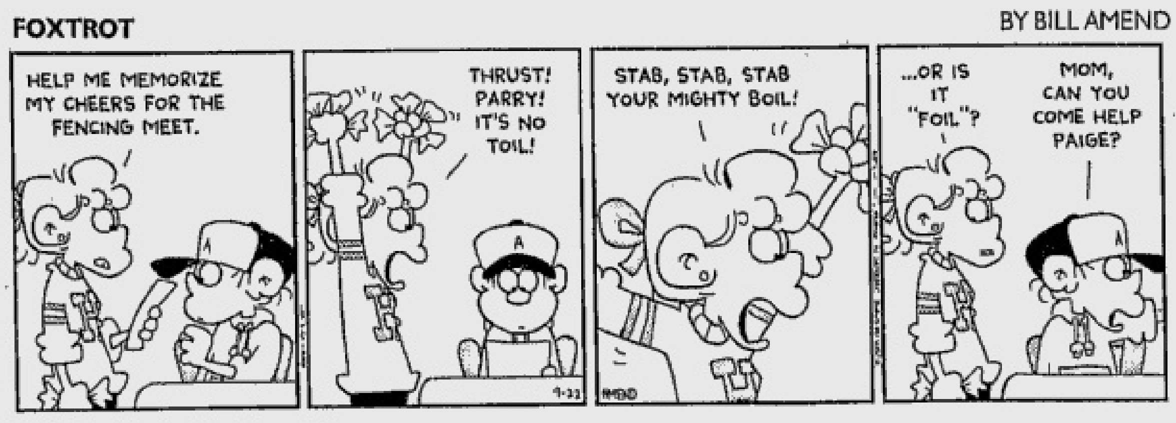
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

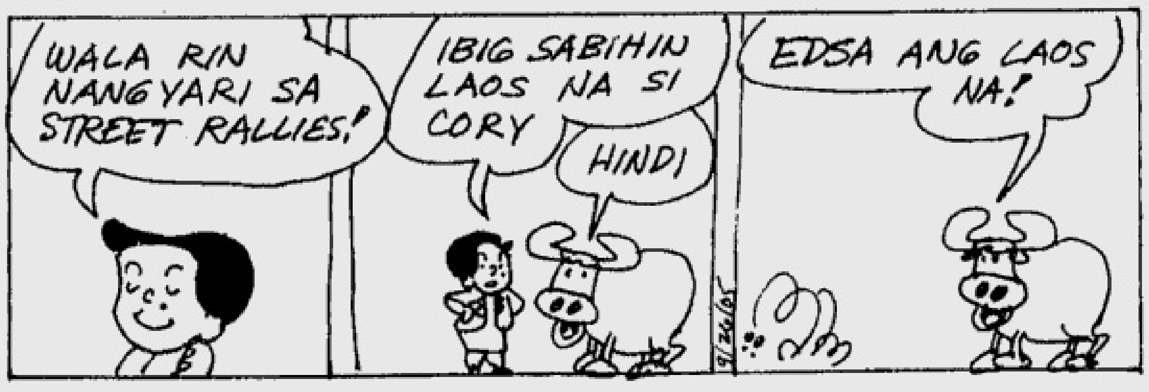
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HELP ME MEMORIZE MY CHEERS FOR THE FENCING MEET.
THRUST! PARRY! IT'S NO TOIL!
STAB, STAB, STAB YOUR MIGHTY BOIL!
...OR IS IT "FOIL"?
MOM, CAN YOU COME HELP PAIGE?
9-22
AMEND

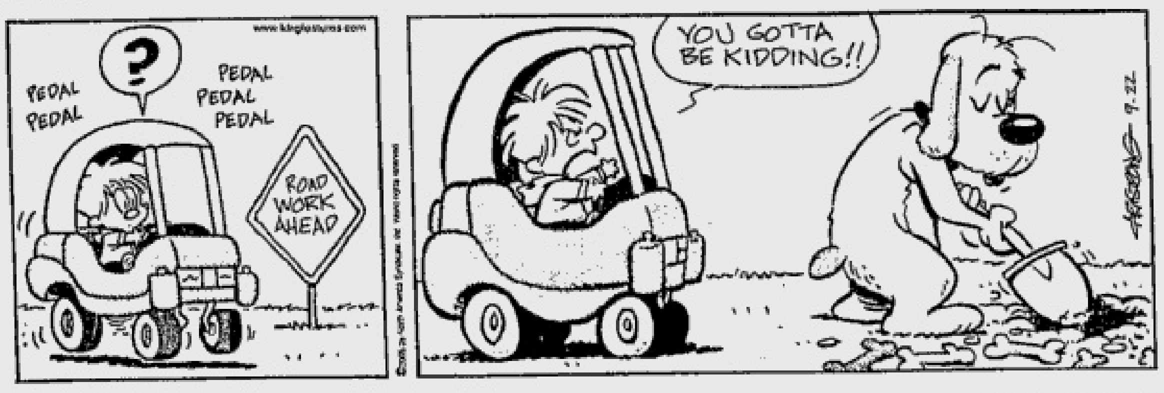
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA RIN NANGYARI SA STREET RALLIES!
IBIG SABIHIN LAOS NA SI CORY
HINDI
EDSA ANG LAOS NA!

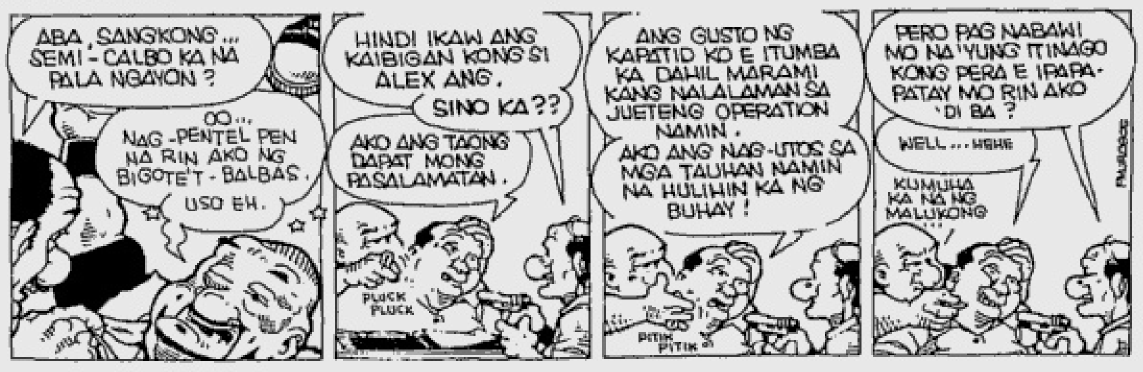
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


www.kingfeatures.com
?
PEDAL PEDAL
PEDAL PEDAL PEDAL
ROAD WORK AHEAD
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!!
9-22

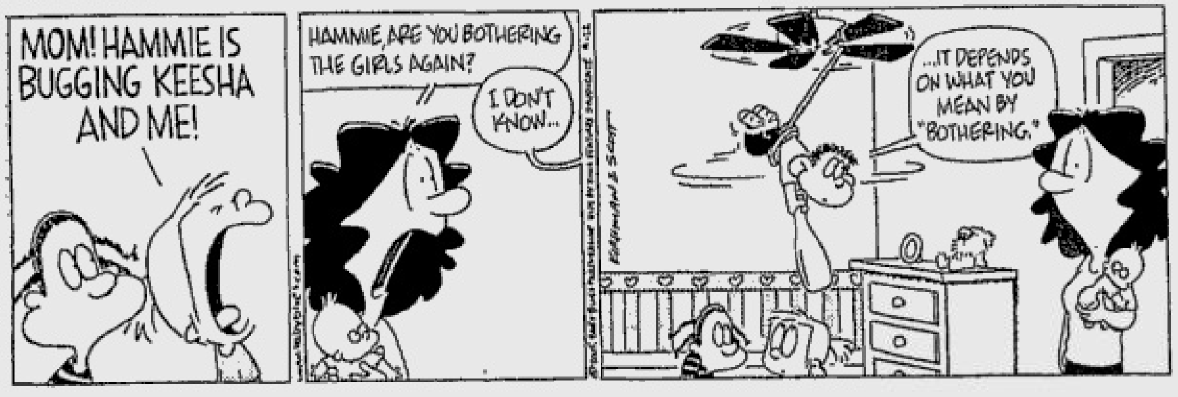
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ABA, SANGKONG... SEMI - CALBO KA NA PALA NGAYON ?
OO... NAG -PENTEL PEN NA RIN AKO NG BIGOTE'T - BALBAS.
USO EH.
HINDI IKAW ANG KAIBIGAN KONG SI ALEX ANG.
SINO KA??
AKO ANG TAONG DAPAT MONG PASALAMATAN.
PLUCK PLUCK
ANG GUSTO NG KAPATID KO E ITUMBA KA DAHIL MARAMI KANG NALALAMAN SA JUETENG OPERATION NAMIN.
AKO ANG NAG-UTOS SA MGA TAUHAN NAMIN NA HULIHIN KA NG BUHAY !
PITIK PITIK
PERO PAG NABAWI MO NA 'YUNG ITINAGO KONG PERA E IPAPA-PATAY MO RIN AKO 'DI BA ?
WELL... HEHE
KUMUHA KA NA NG MALUKONG

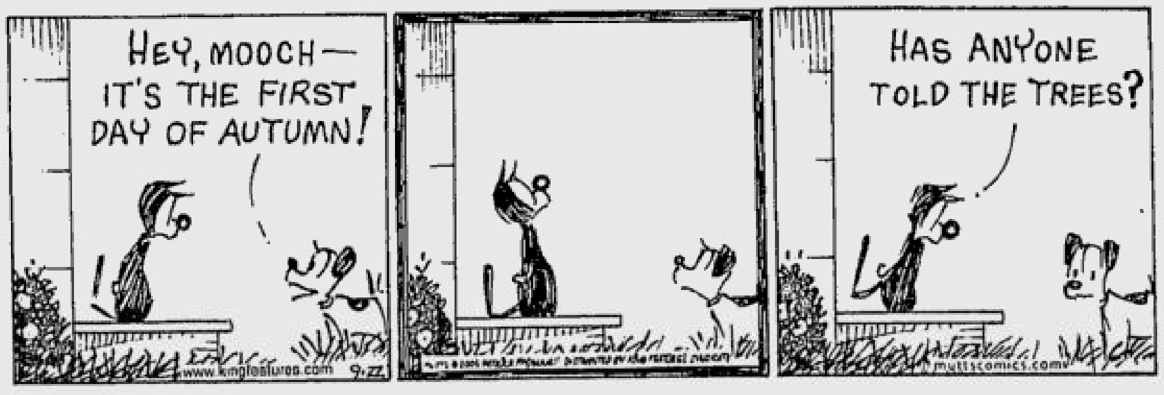
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM! HAMMIE IS BUGGING KEESHA AND ME!
HAMMIE, ARE YOU BOTHERING THE GIRLS AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW...
...IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY "BOTHERING."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

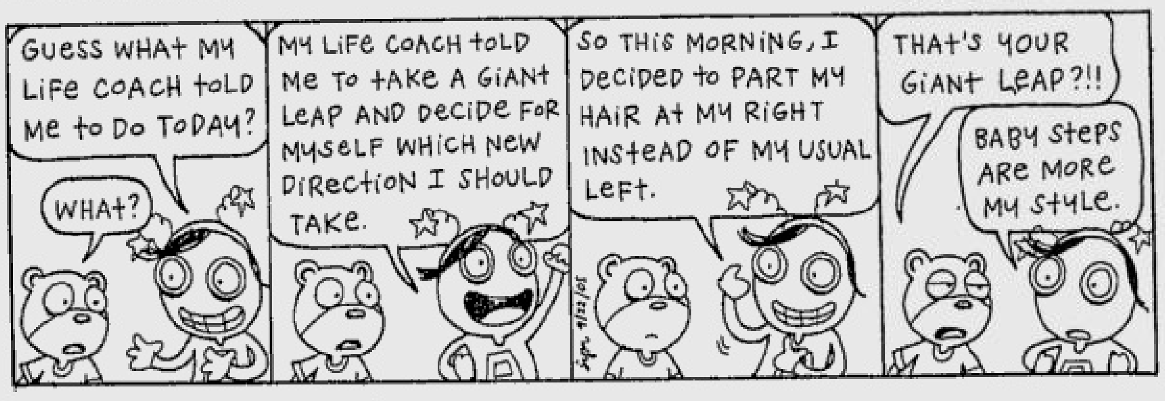
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, MOOCH— IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN!
HAS ANYONE TOLD THE TREES?
www.kingfeatures.com
9-22
muttscomics.com

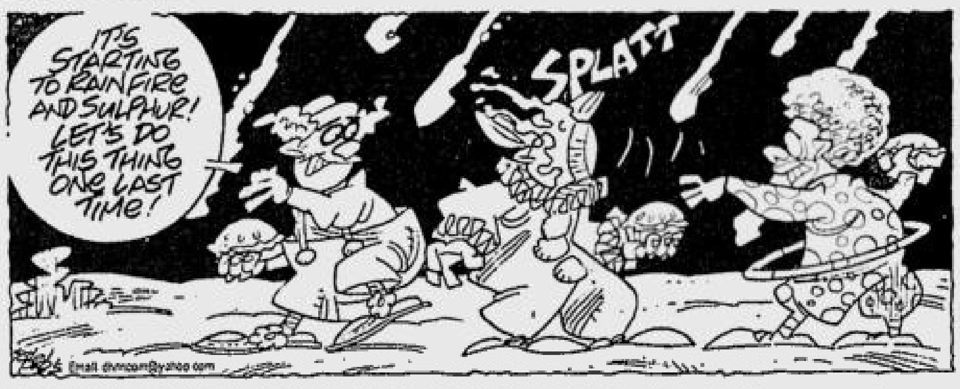
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GUESS WHAT MY LIFE COACH TOLD ME TO DO TODAY?
WHAT?
MY LIFE COACH TOLD ME TO TAKE A GIANT LEAP AND DECIDE FOR MYSELF WHICH NEW DIRECTION I SHOULD TAKE.
SO THIS MORNING, I DECIDED TO PART MY HAIR AT MY RIGHT INSTEAD OF MY USUAL LEFT.
THAT'S YOUR GIANT LEAP?!!
BABY STEPS ARE MORE MY STYLE.
9/22/05

DIVINE COMEDY

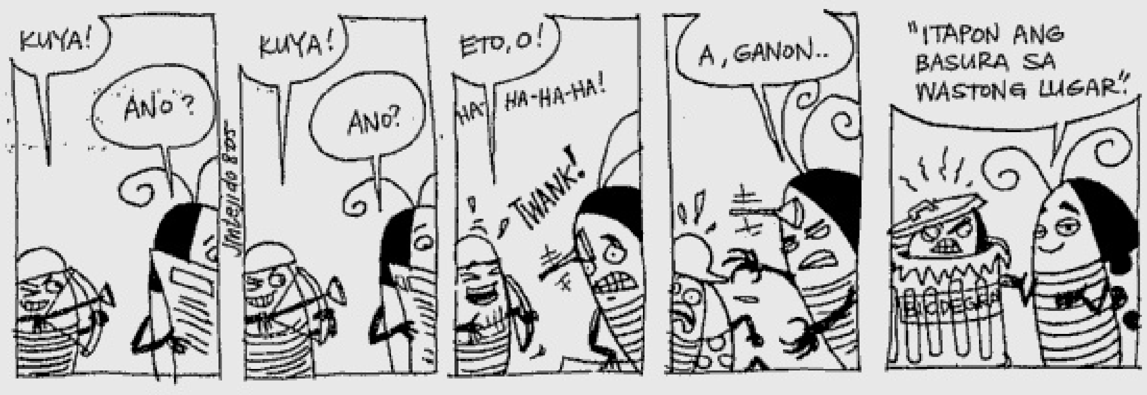
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


IT'S STARTING TO RAIN FIRE AND SULPHUR! LET'S DO THIS THING ONE LAST TIME!
SPLATT
Email: divncom@yahoo.com

CLOWNS AND THE END OF THE WORLD

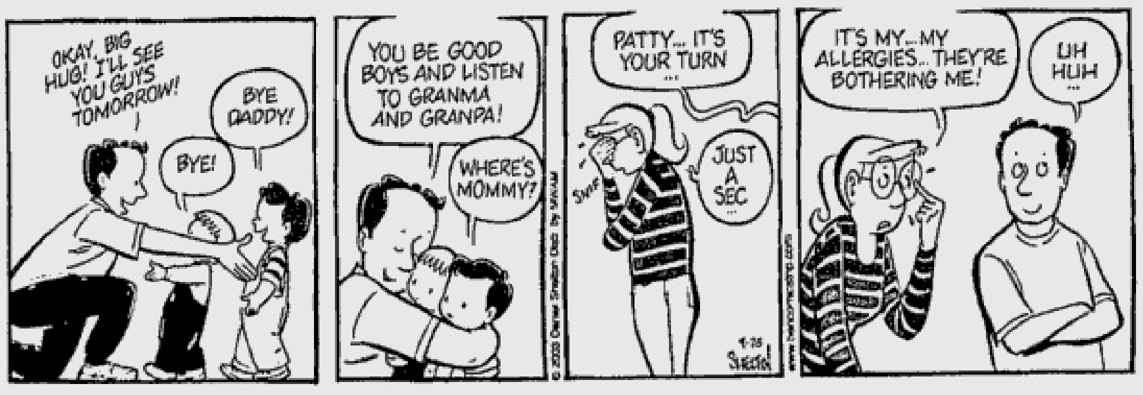
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA!
ANO?
KUYA!
ANO?
ETO, O!
HA! HA-HA-HA!
TWANK!
A, GANON..
"ITAPON ANG BASURA SA WASTONG LUGAR."
BODEGA

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY, BIG HUG! I'LL SEE YOU GUYS TOMORROW!
BYE!
BYE DADDY!
YOU BE GOOD BOYS AND LISTEN TO GRANMA AND GRANPA!
WHERE'S MOMMY?
PATTY... IT'S YOUR TURN ...
SNIF
JUST A SEC ...
IT'S MY... MY ALLERGIES... THEY'RE BOTHERING ME!
UH HUH ...
SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're unusually psychic, even prophetic. You know things, and you don't know why you know them. You respect conventional laws and social mores—yet down deep, you question everything. You're a deep thinker. In the year ahead, your focus will primarily be on your domestic world—family, your close partnerships and where you live.

Birthdate of: Andrea Bocelli, tenor; Joan Jett, singer; Bonnie Hunt, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Discussions with partners are very important to you now. There's something that matters to you that you have to smooth out in the next four weeks. You can do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're starting to feel a strong urge to get better organized in every aspect of your life—your work, your home and your personal world. This is excellent. Get down to it!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Sometime in the next six weeks will be a perfect time for a vacation if you can swing it. This is also an excellent time for new love, romance and fun! Woo woo.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's time to swing your attention to home, family and domestic matters. Work to make your home more cozy and welcoming for yourself and others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, increased reading and writing, study and coursework, and more time spent with siblings and relatives will be your focus for the next month. This is not the time to stay at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Although you're thinking about your cash flow right now, what is really stirring in your mind are questions about your basic values in life. Ask yourself: What really matters?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Sun enters your sign. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year! It's also time to put yourself first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You need to be more reclusive for the next few weeks. Try to work behind the scenes, and try to get more rest and relaxation.

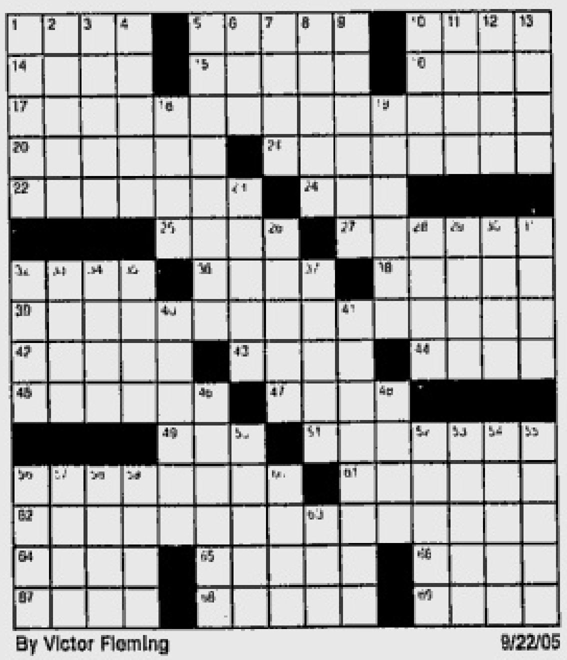
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity rating definitely picks up now. Accept all invitations. Enjoy the company of friends and groups. Get out there and boogie!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Sun is at high noon in your chart now. This calls attention to you. In particular, bosses, VIPs and parents notice you now. Therefore, be on your best behavior!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel plans and dealing with foreign countries totally intrigue you now. You like learning new things and expanding your mind. You want to broaden your experience of the world.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Suddenly, you're getting involved with the wealth of others. Shared debt and shared property are your focus. Define your boundaries. Keep things straight and on the up and up.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR

9/22/05

ACROSS
1 Beyond
5 Philanthropist
10 Rhine tributary
14 Out of port
15 Vacuous
16 Book following Neh.
17 Start of classic traffic court testimony
20 Thaw once again
21 Wire-haired terrier type
22 Parts of feet
24 Sally Field film, "Norma __"
25 Evening in Paris
27 Passing stages
32 Hollywood idol
36 "Miss __ Regrets"
38 Gomez Addams on TV
39 Part 2 of testimony
42 Without help
43 Inert gas
44 Fencer's stiletto
45 Vacation destination
47 Mutton fat
49 By way of
51 Arrives
56 Slander spreader
61 Human beings
62 End of testimony
64 Razed Atlanta arena
65 Honest!
66 Blood: pref.
67 Part of CBS
68 Velocity
69 Tight closure

DOWN
1 "Gloria __"
2 Very wan
3 Appears
4 Be silent, in music
5 Penniless
6 Toronto's prov.
7 Okinawa seaport
8 Studio caution
9 Capture once again
10 Actress Beryl
11 Org. of court players
12 Web page file letters
13 Syngman of Korea
18 Pub pours
19 Donkey's bray
23 Suppress, as info
26 Country singer LeAnn
28 Court legend Arthur
29 Flight unit
30 Irish Republic
31 Dundee dagger
32 Wound reminder
33 Narrative
34 Book following Joel
35 Vegas rival
37 Projecting nose
40 Intensely emotional
41 Outdid
46 Rebounding goals
48 Wood source
50 Famed fabulist
52 Wyle and Gordon
53 Romp
54 Muslim scholars
55 Piano or bicycle part
56 Pontiac muscle cars
57 Heavens!
58 D.C. VIPs
59 Piqued state
60 Last breath
63 Pizza unit

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	P	■	O	B	A	M	A	■	M	O	R	O	N
I	T	O	■	R	A	B	I	D	■	A	P	A	R	T
T	H	U	M	B	N	A	I	L	S	K	E	T	C	H
H	E	R	E	S	■	■	■	I	R	O	N	S	■	■
O	N	E	R	■	L	E	S	B	O	S	■	N	A	P
S	A	D	■	L	I	L	T	S	■	■	H	E	P	O
■	■	■	C	O	M	M	A	■	A	B	U	S	E	D
■	S	E	L	F	P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	S	■
B	E	S	O	T	S	■	T	I	E	I	N	■	■	■
E	A	S	T	■	■	R	E	N	A	L	■	S	S	A
A	R	E	■	T	H	E	R	E	S	■	S	T	E	R
■	■	N	A	R	E	S	■	■	■	F	E	I	N	T
P	I	C	T	U	R	E	O	F	H	E	A	L	T	H
O	R	E	O	S	■	T	R	U	S	T	■	T	R	U
W	A	S	P	S	■	S	A	N	T	A	■	S	Y	R

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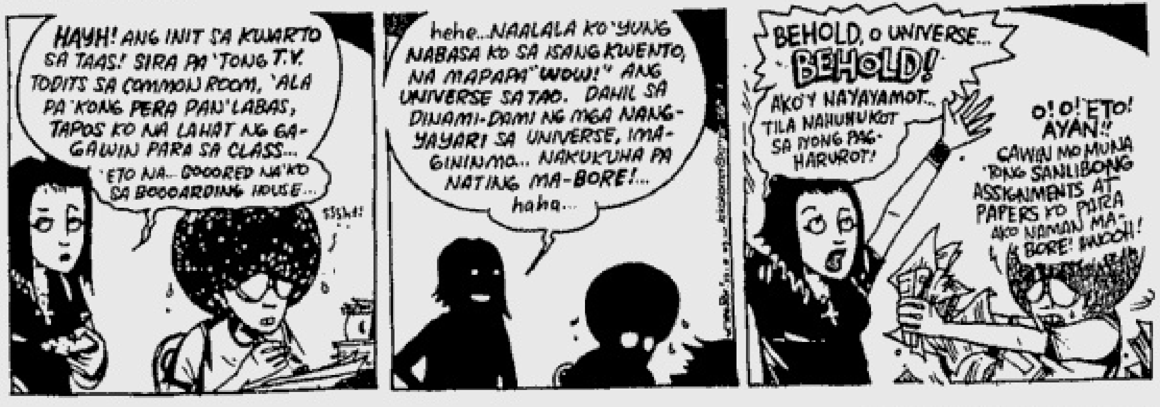
9/22/05

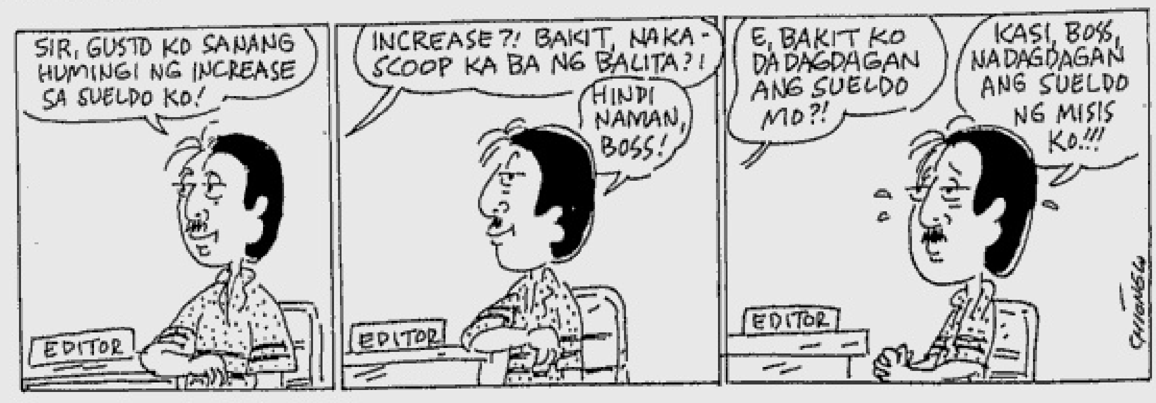
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAYH! ANG INIT SA KUWARTO SA TAAS! SIRA PA 'TONG T.V. TODITS SA COMMON ROOM, 'ALA PA 'KONG PERA PAN'LABAS, TAPOS KO NA LAHAT NG GAGAWIN PARA SA CLASS... 'ETO NA... BOOORED NA'KO SA BOOOARDING HOUSE...
hehe... NAALALA KO 'YUNG NABASA KO SA ISANG KWENTO, NA MAPAPA"WOW!" ANG UNIVERSE SA TAO. DAHIL SA DINAMI-DAMI NG MGA NANGYAYARI SA UNIVERSE, IMAGININMO... NAKUKUHA PA NATING MA-BORE!... haha...
BEHOLD, O UNIVERSE... BEHOLD!
AKO'Y NAYAYAMOT... TILA NAHUHUKOT SA IYONG PAG-HARUROT!
O! O! ETO! AYAN!! GAWIN MO MUNA 'TONG SANLIBONG ASSIGNMENTS AT PAPERS KO PARA AKO NAMAN MA-BORE! BWOOH!

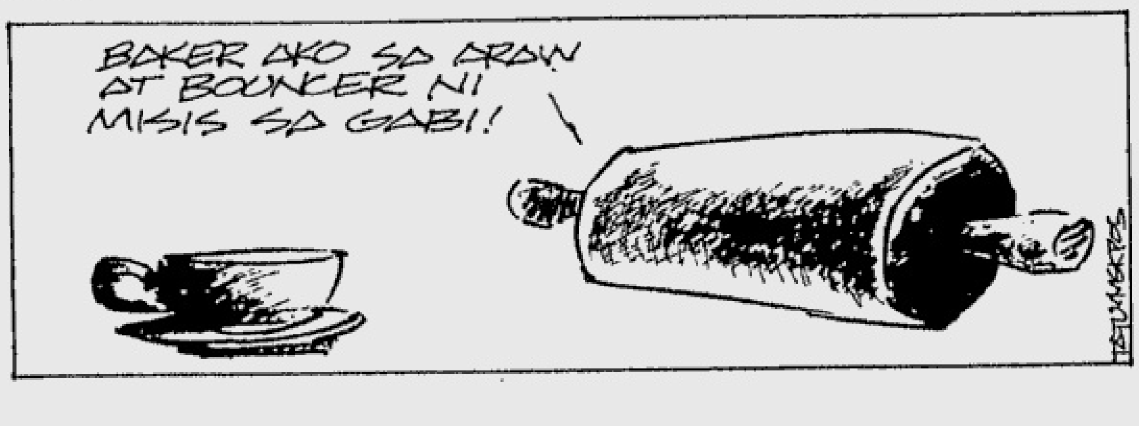
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIR, GUSTO KO SANANG HUMINGI NG INCREASE SA SUELDO KO!
EDITOR
INCREASE?! BAKIT, NAKA-SCOOP KA BA NG BALITA?!
HINDI NAMAN, BOSS!
EDITOR
E, BAKIT KO DADAGDAGAN ANG SUELDO MO?!
KASI, BOSS, NADAGDAGAN ANG SUELDO NG MISIS KO!!!
EDITOR
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKER AKO SA ARAW AT BOUNCER NI MISIS SA GABI!

Your daily bread made healthier

Crunchy SALAD Croutons
Crunchy SOUP Croutons

CROUTON from Sugar Free Pandesal and Double Fiber Whole Wheat loaf for salad and soup

By Linda B. Bolido

OFTEN COARSE AND bland, whole wheat bread is rather difficult for many Filipinos to swallow—literally—even if they know that fiber is good for them.

Favoring sweetish food, Pinoys have always preferred white bread to other kinds of loaf because it is sweeter and softer. Even the local *pandesal*, though it may not be all that sweet and smooth compared to white bread, has a more distinctive taste and softer texture than "foreign" rolls.

Now, Creative Bakers Company, Inc., has come up with a loaf that it hopes will meet the Filipinos' desire for high-fiber yet tastier sliced bread, and a more healthful sugar-free *pandesal*.

NEW!
Double Fiber
Wheat Bread

DOUBLE Fiber bread is a blend of whole wheat and apple.

NEW!
Sugar Free
Wheat Pandesal

NON-CALORIC sweeteners are used for the sugar-free pandesal.

Two fibers

Under the label Walter, the company's Double Fiber Wheat Bread is made of whole wheat and apple, giving one the benefit of both soluble (fruit) and insoluble (grain) fibers. Creative Bakers' fliers claim, "Each serving (two slices) contains more fibers (4 g) than leading brands."

The Sugar Free Wheat Pandesal, said Walter Co, Creative Bakers president, contains zero sugar, probably the only true local sugar-free product. The Walter *pandesal*, which is also so rich in fiber, uses isomalt as sugar replacer and acesulfame K as sweetener.

The Calorie Control Council says isomalt is made from sucrose and looks much like table sugar. It is white, crystalline and odorless. Lower caloric value and other health benefits make isomalt useful for people who are trying to reduce moderately their total energy intake while still being able to enjoy some of their favorite treats.

Acesulfame potassium (acesulfame K), according to the council, is a high-intensity, non-caloric sweetener, some 200 times sweeter than sucrose. It has a clean, quickly perceptible, sweet taste that does not linger or leave an aftertaste. Excreted unchanged by the body, it contributes no calories, thus reducing substantially caloric intake.

Important

Professor Demetria C. Bongga, a nutrition expert from the University of the Philippines Diliman, explained why fiber had become so important at this time when the incidence of obesity, diabetes and hypertension has reached alarming levels. "The addition of fiber is meant to slow glucose absorption into the blood stream," she said.

Diabetics, in particular, benefit from this property of fiber as their problem is caused by the inability of the body to process efficiently and use completely sugars that they take in. Every food item that a person eats is converted sooner or later into some form of sugar the body uses for energy. Inability to use all that sugar in the body can strain the organs, primarily the kidneys.

Bongga also pointed out that, whether in soluble or insoluble form, fiber was useful to the body. Soluble fiber "delayed gastro-intestinal transit" stemming diarrhea. Insoluble fiber had the opposite effect. It "accelerated gastro-intestinal transit," preventing constipation.

More fiber is also recommended for people who are trying to lose weight. As Bongga explained, among other things, fiber had a water-holding capacity (the ability to capture liquid like a sponge), "swelling and increasing the bulk of intestines' contents." The nutritionist said, "Fiber makes us feel full so we eat less and we take less calories."

Fiber also allows the body to use up nutrients more efficiently because of its "binding" ability, allowing the retention of minerals and other useful components for a much longer period of time.

New line

Co said the two new breads represents the beginning of Walter's healthy line. He said they chose apple for the loaf bread because of its good "image" as indicated by the popular saying "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." The fruit had the highest fiber content of those that were considered and its color complemented that of wheat. Its addition not only softened and smoothened the texture of whole wheat bread but also gave it a natural but slight sweet taste that Creative Bakers hoped would appeal to the Pinoy taste.

"Taste is a very important quality of bread for Filipinos," Co pointed out.

He said the absence of sugar shortened the shelf life of *pandesal*. Normally, breads would keep for six to seven days. Co, who said they planned to come out with sugar-free loaf, too, explained that sugar, as well as salt, was a preservative by itself.

To extend the shelf life of breads, Co said they should be stored in the freezer and thawed only when needed.

Both the Double Fiber Wheat Bread and Sugar Free Wheat Pandesal are now available in supermarkets and grocery stores.

Improper handling main cause of e-pass tag malfunction

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

SOME OF OUR READERS HAVE A particular way of expressing their consumer grievances. Take for example this interesting e-mail from J. Tan.

Here are parts of her letter: "I was wondering why two of my e-pass tags died at the same time after two years of use. (The) one (with) a five-year warranty was replaced with a new unit. However, the warranty was reduced to only one year. My other unit was covered by a one-year warranty, but e-pass customer service refused to replace (it).

"I decided to dissect my dead e-pass unit and was surprised to find an AA battery welded to it. I guess the life expectancy of AA batteries in e-pass units (is) around two years depending on use. So even if you (handled) your e-pass units properly... it would 'die' just the same. Since new units carry a one-year warranty, it is blackmail to pay the P2,300 price considering (also) that even high-capacity rechargeable batteries cost significantly less than that."

The letter sender attached a picture of the "dissected dead" e-pass unit.

E-pass manager's response

We forwarded J. Tan's complaint to the E-pass Customer Service Center (psc_csc@skyway.com.ph) and promptly received this response from manager J. J. Jimenez.

"We strongly disagree with Ms Tan's claim that the major source of 'dead' e-pass tags is the battery. Our records show that the e-pass tag stops functioning primarily because of damage caused by improper handling like dismounting it from the windshield and dropping it while... transferring it from one vehicle to another, or simply leaving it un-mounted, thus subjecting (it) to the vibration of a moving vehicle. Since the start of our operations, we have vigorously campaigned on the need to mount the tag using the prescribed clip at all times to protect its sensitive electronic chips.

"On the matter of battery, which she claimed was just an AA battery, may we inform Ms Tan that AA refers to size? The standard AA household battery contains alkaline on 1.5 volts performing poorly in high-drain devices (e.g. digital camera) and cannot be used in e-pass tag. The e-pass AA battery contains 3.6 volts lithium (and) is designed for very high-drain devices, and is very expensive.

"The standard AA alkaline battery has a shelf life (not in use) of five years while the AA lithium has a usage life, when properly cared for, of seven years at 2,000 transactions/year meaning a tag may be used about five times a day.

"To support our position that the e-pass AA lithium battery has a life span of seven years, the tags installed in our company vehicles and those of our employees since 1999 are still functioning after six years. Of course, these tags are permanently mounted and have not been transferred from one vehicle to another.

"On the matter of warranty, customers were informed that tags acquired under our (year) 2002 promotional program had only one-year warranty because we sold it at half its actual selling cost. We could not replace Ms Tan's tag which she bought during the promo and used for more than two years."

Here is another complaint from Shelby Payne. "We went to celebrate my birthday at a grill in Makati. Fascinated by the exotic dishes listed on the menu, we ordered *usa*, *damoy* and frog legs. The waiter said they only had frog legs available at the time. We decided anyway to try their service and food.

"While waiting for our order, we asked for Coke regular for me and Sprite for my friend. Both orders were not available. So we asked for Coke light and iced tea. The waiter took our order and left. Then, he came back to say that the kitchen was out of frog legs.

"At that point, I was not only upset, I was downright livid with rage. We decided to leave. The waiter came back with our bill for P88 plus 10-percent service charge. After all that, the head waiter said, 'We hope you come back again, sir.' They did a good job of ruining my birthday celebration."

Readers need information

From Ramon C: "Are those milk products processed by the Federation of Dairy Cooperatives in Mindanao available here in Metro Manila? If yes, where?"

Riza C wrote: "My father is diabetic and he needs a special diet. I am in California and he lives in Metro Manila. Here in CA, there is a Meals on Wheels Program that delivers meals for home-bound seniors. I wonder if, by any chance, we also have that kind of organization in the Philippines. Or some organizations/hospitals that make special food for diabetic that we could pick up daily."

Send answers to this column to mvgiron07@yahoo.com.

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands on class is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking & baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Class begins November 7 - December 21, 2005. Classes are held every Mondays to Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Rita or Jenny

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

October 1 (Saturday)1:00 - 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS ! SIMPLE GOURMET I by: Chef Dino Guingona, graduate of California Culinary Academy and at the Thai Cooking School in Chiangmai *Mesclun in Special Anchovy Flakes w/ Spicy Garlic Essence, Grilled Lapu-Lapu fillet in Miso-Mirin Marinade, Scrumptious Spicy-Citrus Pork Chops, Strawberries in Grand Marnier and Fresh Cream. P2,500

October 3 (Monday)9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison* Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

October 3 (Monday)\ 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison* Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. P1,500

October 3 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School * Recipes: Sugar, Honey - Glazed, Caramel Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar, Dulce de Leche, Cream Cheese Honey, Boston Cream, Sour Cream Cake Doughnut & Creamy Glazed. P2,500

October 4 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer * Learn the different styles of table arrangements & home decors. Demonstration, lectures and hands-on production. P3,000

October 4 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS TREATS : WORKSHOP by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants *Cheesy Cupcake, Rosettes, Napoleones w/ Cream & Ube Filling, Blueberry Honey Muffins, Banana Sour Cream Raisin Bread, Carrot Pineapple Walnut Cake, Greek Tradition Apple Cake. P2,500

October 5 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kumps New York Cooking School *Crudites, Roast Turkey w/ Sausage, Apple & Hazelnut Stuffing, Cranberry Relish, Roasted Sweet Potatoes w/ Marshmallow Topping, Sauteed Baby Green Beans w/ Shitake Mushrooms, Pepper Cream Biscuits, Baked Ziti, Potato, Ham & Cheese Gratin. P1,800

October 5 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! HEIRLOOM RECIPES & SIGNATURE CATERING DISHES (PART I) by: Chef Sam de Leoz, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competion Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery: International & Asian Cuisine. Inherited recipes, secrets and signature catering dishes cooking demonstration with student pasrticipation. *Pancit Palabok, Wine-braised Mechado w/ Red Wine Portabello Mushroom Sauce and Truffle Essence, Roasted Brined Pork Ribs w/ Citrus Barbecue Sauce, Layered Baked Macaroni, Relyenong Manok w/ Pineapple Cinnamon Sauce, Mahi-Mahi w/ Sauce Tartare and Rainbow garnish. P2,500

October 6 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (classroom A) JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants * Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. P1,700

October 6 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! HEIRLOOM RECIPES & SIGNATURE CATERING DISHES (PART II) by: Chef Sam de Leoz Inherited recipes, secrets and signature catering dishes cooking demonstration with student participation. *Kare-Kare, Southern Beef Kalderata, Pan-fried Tanigue Steak w/ Kikkoman Butter Sauce, Lengua w/ Sauce Robert, Grilled Chicken Marinated in Pineapple Barbecue Sauce, Kilayen (Tita Baby's Pampangga-Style) in Wine Stew w/ Liver puree, Tropical Fruit Salad. P3,000

October 7 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (classroom A) DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy * Chocolate Fudge Cake, Flourless Chocolate Walnut Cake, Sachertorte, German Chocolate Cake and Warm Chocolate Souffle Cake. P1,500

October 8 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS ! THE ESSENTIAL VEGETARIAN DIETS & RECIPES by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet) For your business or your family, learn about the different vegetarian diets, possible health benefits, and how to combine vegetarian dishes with non-vegetarian dishes for the pleasure and benefit of all. This class teaches on the background of vegetarianism and celebrated vegetarian recipes from around the world.*Thai Tofu Satay with Peanut Sauce, Cream of Cauliflower, Organic Greens with Cashews, Warm Beef Salad w/home made Boursin Cheese, Sauted Onion & Tomato Sandwich, Tofu Burger with Whole Wheat Pita Bread, Mushroom Penne Casserole, Vegetable Kebab Mediterranean Style, Low fat Carrot Cake, Sweet Potato Biscuit - Strawberry Shortcake. P2,500

October 10 (Monday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) DIMSUM I by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kai restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. * Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi. P1,700

October 10 - 11(Monday - Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison * Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping, clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation. P4,000

October 11 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 2 & 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje * South Beach Diet Phase 2 continues the discussion on the diet & healthy nutrition with recipes of Stage II. Participants will share their experience from stage I. South Beach Diet Phase 3 is the introduction to the most liberal stage of the diet. Complete meal plan & discussion on how to create your own recipes by including your favorite dishes in your diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P3,500

October 12 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heni Sison* French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Creme Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake. P1,700

October 12 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS ! MEDITERRENEAN COOKING (Greece & Turkey) by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Popular Mediterranean dishes made easy for home cooking demonstration with student participation. *Souvlakia (lamb kebab), Hummus Bi Tahine plus bonus dips, Moussaka (eggplant casserole), Kolokythosoupa (pumpkin soup), Pilau with sautéed mussels in garlic herbs, Gyros w/ Tzatziki Sauce, Lamb Stew w/ Couscous, Chicken Lemon w/ Balck Olives, Piakoundes (rolled nut pastry) P3,000

October 13 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m. (classroom A)
NEW CLASS ! AFFORDABLE BREADS FOR BUSINESS: WORKSHOP by: Chef Carol Acosta *Old Fashioned Pandesal, Sweet Style Pandesal, Country Raisin Bread, Camote Cream Bread, Vienna Cream Doughnut w/ Chocolate icing, Cinnamon Pineapple Walnut Cake. P2,500

October 13 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! NEW ASIAN COOKING (Indonesia, Malaysia & Singapore) by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Modern Southeast Asian dishes made easy for home cooking demonstration with student participation *Sambal Tappa (Indonesia Sour Mango and Tuna Sambal), Sambal Oelek (fragrant chili sambal), Green Mango Salad , Beef Salad, Laksa Lamak (Malaysian seafood rice noodles in spicy soup), Char Kway Teow (Singaporean spicy noodles), Nasi Goreng (Indonesian fried rice), Hainanese Chicken Rice w/ chili ginger sauce, Udang Asam (Singaporean sour spicy prawns), Kue Nagasari (Indonesian steamed banana cake). P2,500

October 14 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS ! U.S TURKEY CLASS I by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City and his latest restaurant FILOS at The Fort, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielson Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club *Learn the many ways of preparing turkey w/ recipes such as Turkey Galantina, Roast Turkey w/ Spanish stuffing and Salsa Diablo, Turkey Ham & Turkey pastel. Each student will get information material from USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) This class is exclusive to 15 students. Demo w/ student participation. P5,000

October 15 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS ! U.S TURKEY CLASS II by: Chef Jane Paredes *Learn the many ways of preparing turkey such as Turkey Sausage, Turkey Pastrami, Apricot Glazed Turkey Ham, Roasted and Stuffed Turkey w/ fruit & nut bread stuffing chestnut & mushroom stuffing, giblet sauce, Madeira Sauce & cranberry sauce. This class is exclusive to 15 students. Each student will get information material from USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Demonstration w/ student participation. P5,000

October 17 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES II by: Chef Katherine Sion *Beancurd with Eight Treasure Soup, Fried Chicken w/ Oyster Sauce, Fried Assorted Meats in A Bag, Grilled Beef Fillet w/ Special Sauce, Steamed Fish Fillet in Soy Sauce, Yang Chow Fried Rice and Mango w/ Sago. P1,700

October 17 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy * In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base: preparation, set up a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

October 18 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) ARTISANAL BREAD by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje * Nothing equals the satisfaction of home baked breads. In this class you will learn how to bake savory and sweet quick breads. This class is a must for all who wants to complete their skill of healthy cooking. This class will teach you how to prepare the most delicious healthy breads. And, if you want to turn it into a small business, we teach you how to. Recipes: Whole Wheat Sandwich Bread, Yogurt Graham, Herb-Onion-Bacon Bread, Yogurt Graham Bread, Bread Sticks, Focaccia, Raisin Bread and Mango Tea Bread. P2,500

October 18 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS ! PAMASKONG HANDOG:WORKSHOP by: Chef Carol Acosta *Masapan di Pili, Butterscotch Caramel Bar, Cocodates Bars, Cassava Bibingka w/ Ube Macapuno, Royal Bibingka w/ Kesong Puti & Red Egg, Cheesy Espasol w/ Kundol, Cheesy Bibingka. P2,500

October 19-20 (Wednesday - Thursday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison * Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating - the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flower. Full participation. P4,000

October 19 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila * Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. P2,500

October 20 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo * Learn all-time favorites Japanese dishes applicable to home & professional cooking such as: Sushi, Sashimi, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. P2,500

October 21 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (classroom A) PAELLA Y MAS (Paellas & More!) by: Chef Ed Quimson, *Recipes: Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella ala Montana, Paella Catalan (sin Tropezons), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

October 21 (Friday) 2:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.(classroom A)NEW CLASS ! HENY'S HONEY CURED HAM & ED QUIMSON'S CHORIZO by: Chef Ed Quimson Learn the process of curing, cooking and glazing ham and let Chef Ed unveil his secret in making his famous money making chorizo recipe. Full Participation. P10,000

October 22 (Saturday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! SIMPLE GOURMET II by: Chef Dino Guingona *Seared Scallops in Mushroom Ragout w/ 2 Caviars, Crab and Prawns in Spiral Pasta, Succulent Tenderloin in Oriental Marinade, Freshly Baked Chocolate Crinckles ala mode. P2,500

October 24 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m (classroom A) PIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique *Chocolate Banana Cream Pie, Lemon Meringue Tartlets, Chicken Pot Pie, Chocolate Walnut Pie, Mississippi Mud Pie, Black Bottom Pie w/ Rye Whiskey Sauce, Blueberry Pie w/ Crumb Topping, All-American Apple Pie. P2,500

October 24 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! PASTA AND SAUCES by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli *Tagliolini agli Asparagi (Egg noodles w/ Asparagus), Penne con Gamberi & Pernod (Penne w/ Prawns & Pernod), Tagliatelle w/ Sundried Tomatoes, Fusilli con Salsiccia (Homemade fusili w/ Sausage), Vermicelli alle Vongole (Vermicelli w/ clam sauce), Conchiglie di Mare con Spinaci (Seafood conchiglie w/ spinach), Tagliatelle w/ Scallops, Pipe con Ricotta & Zafferano, (Pipe w/ ricotta, spinach & saffron), Spaghetti alle Erbe (Spaghetti w/ herb sauce), Maccheroni con Pomodorini & Arucola (Maccheroni w/ tomatoes & rocket), Gnocchi al Gorgonzola Gnocchi al gorgonzola potatoes dumpling), Cannelloni Broccoli & Ricotta (Broccoli & ricotta cannelloni) Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

October 25 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (classroom A) EASY BAKING FOR CHRISTMAS by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po *Caramel Popcorn, Crinkles, Fudge Brownies, Chocolate Cookies, Cocoa Truffle and Pineapple Ice Box Cake. P1,500

October 25 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) COMMERCIAL BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique * Spanish Bread, Pandesal, Hotdog Bun, Pan de Coco, Choco Bread Hamburger Bun, Meat Roll & Pig Pie plus bonus recipes!P2,500

October 26(Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)NEW CLASS! SANDWICH BREADS & GREAT FILLINGS WORKSHOP by:HenySison Make your own breads and fillings for fabulous sandwiches in this hands-on workshop. Recipes: French Ciabatta filled w/Salmon BLT, Italian Ciabatta filled w/ Insalata Capresa (Tomato, Basil or Oregano, Buffalo Milk Mozzarella sprinkled w/ Pepper & drizzled w/ olive oil), Hamburger Rolls filled w/ Blue Cheese, Pita Bread filled w/ Greek Salad & Tzatziki Sauce, Fresh Rosemary Focaccia filled w/ Roasted Bell Pepper & Smoked Mozzarella. P2,500

October 26(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) BROWNIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique * Fudgy Brownies, Chocolate Chip Butter Blondies, Chocolate Chip Walnut Bars, Cappuccino Brownies, Butterscotch Brownies, Marbled Cream Cheese Brownies, Fruit & Nut Bars and White Chocolate Brownies.P2,500

October 27(Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet)* This class will guide you the principles of healthy nutrition & the nutritional guideline, menu plan & recipes of Phase 1 of the South Beach Diet Swiss Pinoy Style - the strictest phase of the diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

October 27 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! CREPÉ & SOUFFLÉ WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique* Hazelnut Banana Crepé, Mango Crepé, Crepé Suzette, Spinach & Mushroom Roulade, Mushroom Chicken Crepé, Chocolate Soufflé, Mango Soufflé, Soufflé Au Grand Marnier (Orange Soufflé), Gruyere Soufflé. P2,800

October 28 (Friday) 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS ! CAFÉ DESSERTS: PART I : by Heny Sison *Triple Chocolate Chip Cookies, Pecan Pie Bars, Gooey Lemon Bar, Fruit filled Fried Pies, Sticky Date Pudding w/ Butterscotch Sauce P1,500

October 29 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison * Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. P3,000

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
#31 Nestle Bldg. Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City

October 5 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. 2:00 noon CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. P1,500

October 17 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. BUNDT CAKES *Chocolate-Cheese Swirled Cake, Marbled Coffee Cake, Cinnamon Streusel Cake, Blueberry Coffee Cake and Orange Rum Cake. P1,500

October 18 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CHEESECAKE GALLERY *Cappuccino Cheesecake, New York Cheesecake, Pastillas de Leche Cheesecake, Caramel Cheesecake, White Chocolate Chunk Macadamia Nut Cheesecake and Piña Colada Cheesecake. P1,500

TUITION FEE includes ingredients. Reservation is required.
WEDDING & BIRTHDAY CAKE orders by appointment only.
We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionary and Baking Supplies.

FOR RESERVATIONS & INQUIRIES visit or call us at:
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WATCH "A TASTE OF LIFE WITH HENY SISON" at IBC Channel 13 every Sunday, 11:00-12:00 noon

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